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This is a detailed historical map of Northamptonshire, showing the River Ouse and its tributaries. The map includes numerous place names such as Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, and Blotchley. It also features a compass rose and a scale bar at the bottom.

The Parishes shaded black, represent *Moulsho*; shaded green, *Boneston*; and those unshaded, *Sigelai*.

History and Antiquities
of the
Newport Pagnell Hundreds.



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OLIVER RATCLIFF,

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1900.

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PREFACE.

The editing of this volume has been a labour of love, recalling happy memories of the past. It is about forty years since I took up my residence in the historic Hundreds of Newport Pagnell, and I have never missed an opportunity of obtaining a local work, and making a note of matters I deemed of interest and importance. In the following pages will be found the result of my gleanings.

The task of history-writing bristles with pitfalls, and it is idle to suppose that there is no weak spot in this book for the critic to assail. But critics, if in the main less important than they affect to be, have their uses as advertising media, and while expressing that nothing which care and diligence could do to make this work perfect has been left undone, I beg to express a hope that the person who finds errors, and sets out to expose them, will do so as loudly as possible.

It is now fifty-five years since the valuable history of Bucks, by Lipscomb, was issued, which has rendered valuable assistance in the compilation of this work, though it contains several inaccuracies which have been corrected; also its text has here been brought up to date.

I desire to acknowledge much valuable assistance in preparing this History of the Newport Hundreds, from Mrs. W. W. Carlile, wife of our respected Member of Parliament; Miss Mountain, of Stony Stratford; Dr. Bradbrook, of Bletchley; and the clergy and gentry of the Hundreds generally.

OLIVER RATCLIFF.

Cowper Press, Olney,

July 1901.

NEWPORT HUNDREDS.

This division of the county includes three ancient Hundreds, denominated Bonestou, Moulsho, and Segelai.

BONESTOU.

Comprises :

Castlethorpe.
Gayhurst with Gorefields.
Hanslope.
Haversham.
Lathbury.
Lavendon.
Linford, Great.
Olney.
Ravenstone.
Stoke Goldington.
Stoke Hammond.
Tyringham.
Weston Underwood.

MOULSHO.

Comprises :

Astwood.
Brickhill, Bow.
Brickhill, Great.
Brickhill, Little.
Broughton.
Chicheley.
Clifton Keynes.
Crawley, North.
Ekeney cum Petsoe.
Emberton.
Hardmead.
Milton Keynes.
Moulsoe.
Sherington.
Wavendon.

SIGELAI.

Comprises :

Bletchley with Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton.
Bradwell & Bradwell Abbey.
Calverton.
Linford, Little.
Newport with Caldecot.
Shenley Church End.
Simpson.
Stantonbury.
Stony Stratford.
Filgrave.
Woolstone, Great
Woolstone, Little.
Wolverton.
Woughton-on-the-Green.

The three Hundreds of Newport were, by patent 12 Charles I., granted to Sir Francis Fortesque, and John and William, his sons, for their lives; and the same were afterwards granted, 17 Charles II., to Queen Catherine in dower, viz. : The profits were valued at £25. They were subsequently granted in reversion to the Duke of Leeds.

The custody of the three Hundreds was, in the time of King Charles II., granted to Thomas Catesby, of Hardmead, or to some person in trust for him; together with his majesty's rent, called "Certainty Money," issuing forth of the several towns or villages therein, for some term of years long since expired, at the yearly rent of £25/3/8.

Thomas, late Duke of Leeds, when Earl of Danby, having purchased several rents, amounting to £23/6/8 per annum, which were reprised, and to which the Crown had no title, applied to the Treasury for satisfaction for the same; and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, in lieu thereof, ordered that Sir John Talbot, the surviving trustee named in the Act of Parliament for sale of Fee Farm Rents, should convey to the said duke, in fee, certain annual fee farm rents issuing out of the several villages within the said three Hundreds, amounting to £23/19/5 per annum. And accordingly, Sir John Talbot, by bargain and sale, enrolled, dated 6 December 1710, conveyed the same to the duke, in fee; in which deed the respective rents paid by each town or village are particularly mentioned.

LA Vendon.

THE Parish of Lavendon is one of the most northern of the Newport Hundreds, being in the N.E. angle of the County of Buckinghamshire. It is bounded on the N. by Northamptonshire ; on the east, by Bedfordshire ; on the south, by Olney ; and on the west by Warrington. This village is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Olney, 8 from Newport Pagnell, $9\frac{1}{2}$ from Bedford, and 12 from Northampton, upon which old coach road between the last two places it is situated. It is in the Petty Sessional Division, County Court, Union, and Rural Deanery of Newport Pagnell ; Archdeaconry of Buckingham ; and the Diocese of Oxford. Its area is 2,353 acres. The soil is clay and loam ; the subsoil gravel and limestone. In 1881, the population was 654. During the last few years boot and shoe making has been introduced into the place on a small scale. The old pillow lace, that in former days formed the principal feature of commerce, is gradually dying out and is only made by a very few of the older inhabitants.

The village, consisting mainly of old stone-built and thatched houses with a few modern residences intermixed, has a good Board School situated in the centre of the place. There are The George, The Green Man, and The Horse-shoe inns along the old coach road which thus are in a convenient position for cyclists, &c. The Baptists and Independents in 1894, erected an imposing Chapel of white brick with stone facings opposite the Board Schools, which they designate the "Union" Chapel. The Primitive Methodists have a Meeting House on the Olney road. On the south side of the Northampton road there is a house with the following initials and date engraved upon a tablet : F. I. — 1690. The top or third initial, that of the surname, has perished.

Tradition says that there was a bell foundry of some note here, thus giving rise to the name of "Bell" Yard. To strengthen this assertion ; some thirty years ago, whilst digging out the foundations for some of the present buildings, there was a considerable quantity of dross and bell-metal found, but who worked it is not known. The entrance to this yard used to be from the top end instead, as now, from the street.

This village must have been one of the most important of North Bucks judging from its very powerful castle, ten manors, and three water mills of which the following is the

Manorial History.

At the Domesday Survey, the principal estate in *Lauuendene* belonged to Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance, having been holden in the Saxon times, by a man of Borret, who could sell it. The Bishop likewise possessed another very large manor here, holden under him by William, his subfeudatory. These are respectfully described ; the first as holden by the Bishop himself, taxed at two hides for one Manor ; land four

carucates; and in the demesne, one hide, with two carucates. There were three servants, one carucate of pasture, wood for one hundred hogs, and valued at 40/-; when he first held it, at 20/-; but in the time of Edward, at 60/-.

There was likewise another Manor, which William held of the Bishop described as four hides and two parts of a virgate, four carucates of land; in the demesne, two carucates and seven villeins, with six bordars, having two ploughs. There were three servants, and one mill, and the half of 27/- rent; two hundred and fifty eels; meadow for four ploughs; pannage for sixty hogs. It was valued at 60/-; when he first held it, at 20/-; and in the reign of Edward, at £4. This Manor had been holden by eight thanes; and one of them, Alli, a man of King Edward, was senior of the rest. They all might sell their land.

In the same vill, Anschitell held also one hide and a half, with a like quantity of pasture, and wood for twelve hogs. It was valued at 20/-; when he first held it, at 5/-; and in the time of Edward, at 20/-. This land, Borgeret, and Ulric his man, held, and could sell it. In the same vill, three socmen held one hide off the Bishop, and one virgate. There was one carucate of land, one half of it cultivated, and the rest might have been added to it; and there was one villein, with two bordars, have pasture for four oxen, pannage for eight hogs, which had been, and was then valued at 10/-; and in the time of Edward, at 20/-. This land two thanes had holden, Borret, and Ulric, ecclesiastics, who could sell it.

The land of the Earl of Morton, in Lavendon, was holden of that Earl by Hunfrid, as two hides and an half for one Manor. There were two carucates and a half; and there was one carucate and three villeins, with five bordars, having one carucate and a half. There were two servants, one mill of 10/-, and fifty eels rent, two carucates of pasture, and wood for forty hogs. It was valued at 40/-; when he first held it, 20/-; and in the time of Edward, £4. This manor, a certain man of Alric, the son of Goding held, and could sell it.

Walter Giffard's land here consisted of two hides and one virgate, and the fourth part of another virgate. There were two carucates; in the demesne one; and five villeins, with eight bordars, have one carucate, and another carucate of pasture; with woods for thirty hogs. It was valued at 25/-; when he first held it, at 10/-; and in the time of Edward, 40/-. This land, a man of Wluui the Bishop held, and could sell it.

The land of the Countess Judith, in Lavendon, was holden of her by Roger, as two hides and one virgate, and the fourth part of a virgate. There were two carucates; in the demesne one; and three villeins, with two bordars, had one carucate; two carucates of pasture; and wood for three hogs. It was valued at 30/-; when he first held it, 10/-; and in the time of Edward, 40/-. This Manor, Humman, a man of Alli, had holden, and could sell it.

The countess had also, in the same vill, two hides and one virgate, holden under her by Gilbert de Blosslevile. There were three carucates, but not cultivated, unless by four bordars who had three

carucates of pasture. Here were woods for twenty hogs; then, and always, estimated at 20/-. This Manor, Alli, huscarl (a menial servant) to Edward, had holden, and could sell it.

In the same vill, Ralph also held of the Countess one hide. There was one carucate and a half; one villein and three bordars; one carucate and a half of pasture; wood for fifteen hogs; then and previously estimated at 10/-; and in the time of Edward, at 20/-. This Manor, Turbert a man of the Countess Goda, had holden and could sell it.

The enumeration of the lands mentioned in the Domesday Survey is completed by a small estate in Lavendon which had been anciently holden and remained in the hands of Chetel, as tenant of the King himself. The land was only half a carucate, with one bordar, a carucate of pasture, wood for ten hogs; then and formerly valued at 7/-; and in the time of Edward, at 10/-, when it was holden by the same tenant, who could sell it.

It has been presumed, that the lands of the Bishop of Constance were, after his forfeiture, given to the Peyvres, or came to the Biduns, who possessed the other principal estate here, and became the founders of Lavendon Abbey.

Paul Peyvre, or Peover, in 1248, obtained from Henry III. a Charter for a weekly market every Tuesday, at his Manor of Lavendon; but on equal authority, it appears, that the second capital Manor here, which had belonged to Robert Earl of Morton and Cornwall, had been forfeited in the reign of Henry I. who is said to have bestowed it upon Halemed* de Bidun, a potent Baron; to whom succeeded John de Bidun, who, about 1178 or 1180, founded Lavendon Abbey in this parish; and, dying in 1255, without issue, his five sisters became his heirs; one of whom was wife of Arnulf de Gatesden, Patron of the Church; and another, as is said, of Paul Peover, who thereby acquired the Patronage of the Abbey of Lavendon, amongst the estates of which the estate was included, until the Dissolution of Religious houses by Henry VIII.

In 1257, a fine was levied between Henry de Norwich, *Querent*, and Amabilia de Pytesley, whereby Amabilia acquitted the said Henry of the services which Peter Peyvre required for his free tenement in Lavendon, holden by the said Amabilia; but here some difficulty occurs, in that the name of Peter Peyvre is not discovered in those imperfect pedigrees of that great family which appear to have been preserved at the period described. It is probable that there might have been more than two John Biduns in immediate succession about that time, which yet by no means removes the difficulty.

John de Bidun, son and heir of Halenald de Bidun, by Agnes, daughter of Pagan Fitz John, besides several brothers, had undoubtedly a son of his own name, who married Maud.....but died without issue, as did the said Maud, in 1254, leaving his five sisters co-heiresses, viz., Armigard, wife of Ralph de Gatesden; Amabilia,

* This name is spelt with every imaginable variety of which its component letters appear to be susceptible, in the different accounts of the family.

wife of Milo de Beauchamp ; the wife of Richard, brother of the said Milo ; Amicia, wife of Henry de Clinton ; and a fifth whose name is not expressed.

It appears that Walter de Bidun (perhaps an uncle of the five sisters of John) claimed this inheritance after his nephew's death ; for in 1189, this Walter was fined 40/- for making a false claim ; and in 1259, a fine was passed between Henry de Norwich, and Isolda his wife, *Querents*, and Richard de St. Mark, and Isabell his wife, *Impedients*, of messuages and lands in Lavendon, to the uses of Henry and Isolda ; and in the same year, another fine between the same Henry de Norwich, *Querent*, and Ralph de Conte, *Impedient*, of messuages and lands in Lavendon and Brayfield, to the use of the former ; and as William de Cantilupe, John de Grey, Philip Basset, and Paulin Peyvre, Constables and Military Knights of the King, were engaged, by their agreement to the King, to attend him in Picardy (in a writing signed at Winchester, in 26 Henry III.), it is presumed that John Peyvre must have been in possession of the Manors of Lavendon, Wavendon, Liscombe, and Morton ; he having purchased Great Wolston about 28 Henry III. and accounted for hidage in 1275, for half a Knight's-fee, which had been allowed by the Sheriffs out of the suits of the Hundreds for twenty-four years' arrearages of the ancient inheritance of the Peyvres, and to which John Peyvre appears to have been entitled in the reign of John.

In 1269, John de Beauchamp was returned, by inquisition, to have died in possession of the Manor of Lavendon ; and in 1274, Emma, wife of John de Peyvre, is returned to have died in possession of Weston, Wolston, Wavendon, and Lavendon Manors. It appears by the Hundred Rolls, that in 1274, the Manor of *Lilley* being in the hands of King Henry, at the death of Robert Malet, a Norman, the King gave his lands to Paulin Peyvre, to hold by the service of half a Knight's-fee ; and that the Manor, during the time of its being in the hands of the said Robert was geldable ; that the tenant appeared at the Sheriff's *torn**, and paid his aid to the Sheriff of 8/- and 2/- for his view of frankpledge, from the time of the aforesaid Paulin ; and that the King gave him free warren and view of frankpledge, and Sheriff's aids ; remarking, that Paulin de Peyvre was the son of Roger, deceased. Moreover that Theobald de Neville came and acknowledged, by a certain deed enrolled, that he held the Manor of *Leye*, in Rutland, of John de Peyvre, son of John, son of Paulin Peyvre, *in capite*, by the service of paying one pound or cumine, or twopence, and forty shillings annually.

In 1287, a fine was levied between John, son of John Peyvre, *Querent*, and Henry de Hereford, and Agnes his wife, *Deforciens*, to the use of John, the son. In the Hundred Rolls of 4 Edward I., it was returned, that Paulin Peyvre had holden one Knight's-fee in Wavendon, and five virgates of land, and that the guardians of Paul Peyvre held one Knight's-fee in Wavendon, of the Honour of Berkhamstead, of the King ; that all these fees were geldable, and then holden as the fee of

* Torn, Saxon, meaning rent payment.

Wavendon, by Paul Peyvre. In 1316, Baldwin Wac, or Wake, died possessed of Knight's-fees in Lavendon and Weston; and from the like authority, it appears that, in 1335, John Peyvre died seised of Knight's-fees in Wavendon, Lavendon, and Brayfield, of the Manors of Weston and Lavendon, and of the Advowsons of the Churches of Great Wolston and Lavendon Abbey. In 1344, Paulin Peyvre died possessed of the Manors of Weston, Lavendon Wolston Magna, and Wavendon, and of the Advowson of the Church; and that, in 1349, Thomas Wake, Baron of Liddel, died possessed of lands in Lavendon, Lathbury, Filgrave, and Weston.

In 1373, Edmund Mordaunt is recorded to have died possessed of an estate in Lavendon and Chicheley.

In 1390, a fine was passed by Thomas Peyvre, and Margery his wife, of the Manors of Astwood, Lavendon, and Chilton, and a moiety of Weston Manor, which was then passed to Richard Alban; and in 1468, William Lord Zouch died seised of the Manors of Lavendon, Astwood, and Weston Underwood; as did Catherine, wife of the said Lord Zouch, in 1471. In 1527, the Manor of Lavendon, called the Castle Manor, was sold by Lord Zouch to John Lord Mordaunt, with free warren in Lavendon, Brayfield, Olney, and Warrington, and the right of fishery; and in 1537, a fine, passed from John, Lord Zouch, Lord Seymour and Cantilupe, to Sir John Mordaunt, Lord Mordaunt, whereby the Lord Zouch conveyed to Lord Mordaunt the Manor of Lavendon, and view of frankpledge. By Patent, 7 Edward VI., p. 3, the King for the sum of £1,315/8/10 paid by Hugh Lawe and Thomas Lawe, of London, haberdashers, granted to them, *inter alia*, the annual rent of 8/- and services issuant out of a tenement and lands in Lathbury, and several other rents and services, parcel of the late Monastery of Lavendon, *habend*, to them, their heirs and assigns for ever, *tenend*, as of the Manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, in free soccage. The King also granted to Alexander Brett, for £842/11/10, several pastures belonging to Lavendon Abbey, and 3/6 rents issuing out of lands in Weston, to him and his heirs; and in 1557 and 1558, King Philip and Queen Mary granted to Thomas and John White, Roger Martin, and John Blackwell, *inter alia*, the Lordship and Manor of Lavendon, late part of the possessions of Henry Peckham, attainted. In 1573, Queen Elizabeth, in complement of several covenants and agreements, dated 3rd August 1573, made between her majesty, of the one part, and Sir George Peckham, Knight, of the other part, also in consideration of the good and acceptable service, and at the humble petition of the said Sir George, granted to Robert Heywood, and Johanna his wife, all those houses and edifices, together with the site and precinct of the late Monastery of Lavendon; and all those lands, containing 75 acres, being in a field called Culverwell; and 65 acres, lying diversly in Downfield; and 80 acres in Ten Oak Field; and a field called Adersey,* containing 80 acres; and Windmill Close, containing 22 acres; and the *Launde*, containing 16 acres; and the wood called Highwood containing 4 acres; and other lands and pastures in

* See page 7.

Lavendon, Warrington, and Cold Brayfield, belonging to the said Monastery; also 20 acres of meadow to the same belonging, in the occupation of Sir George Peckham; 60 acres in the occupation of Sir Edmund Peckham, both being in Lavendon and Cold Brayfield; and a waste or common, called Pickmead, in Warrington; together with all tenths in general, &c., arising and growing in the said lands; with three water mills in Lavendon, and messuages, lands, woods, &c., in the occupation of William King, Peter Almaine, &c., in Lavendon; one messuage and tenement in Brayfield 50 acres of land, and 11 acres of meadow, with a house called the Parsonage, in Brayfield; with all tithes of grain and hay; and also the Lordship and Manor of Lavendon, and Advowson, Donation, and right of Presentation to the Church of Lavendon, all belonging to the same Monastery, *habend*, to the said Sir Roland Heywood, and Johanna his wife, and his heirs and assigns for ever, *in capite*, by the service of a twentieth part of a Knight's-fee. The number of acres in the above grant was 473,

Sir Roland Heywood died 5 December 1593, having been thirty years an Alderman of London, and twice Lord Mayor; and about 1610, this Manor was purchased from his heirs or representative, by William Newton, who about 1617, transferred it to Robert Eccleston; whose son or grandson is said to have again sold it Thomas Newton (whose degree of relationship to the former purchaser of that name is not ascertained), father of Richard Newton, D.D., who was born at Yardley Chase, on the verge of Buckinghamshire, but within the county of Northamptonshire.

In 1802, under an act of Parliament dated 9 September, allotments were made to Farrer Grove Spurgeon, Esq., as Lord of the Manor of Uphoe in Lavendon, the Manors of Snelson, otherwise Grays, and the Castle in Lavendon; and to the Rev. Simon Adams, as Lord of the Manors of Lavendon and Lavendon Grange. At the same time an allotment was assigned to the vicar, in lieu of the vicarial, and a portion of the great tithes to which he was entitled; and allotments were awarded also to the Earl of Dartmouth, Mr. Farrer, and Mr. Chester, in lieu of their several portions of tithes, which had formerly been appropriated to the Abbey.

XVIIth Century Token.

The village, during the XVIIth Century, like several others in the Hundreds, possessed its private, though illegal, mint or coining apparatus worked by one named Edmond Baltswell, who was evidently a baker, by the emblematical arms upon the reverse of the coin issued under his name.

The description of this farthing, made of brass, is: The obverse has the legend EDMOND . BALTSWELL and in the centre the bakers' arms. The reverse legend is IN . LAVENDON . BYCKE with larger letters (E.A. B.) in the centre. It is a rare token and was lost sight of until very recent years, and is noticed in *Boyne's* second edition of the work on this subject as a hitherto unpublished token.

The better class of tradesmen in those days when there was no

copper coinage, being sorely taxed to find small change (other than the small silver half-pennies and farthings which were practically useless) were compelled in order to save barter, to take the law into their own hands and thus, in spite of the threats from the Government, used this "Money of Necessity," which is now known as the XVIIth Century Tradesmen's Tokens.

When the various tradesmen had accumulated a large quantity of these small pieces, they would return them to the issuer whose name was shown upon them, and he would give their equivalent in the coinage of the realm.

The issue of this trade token at Lavendon, about the year 1655, is really the last historical item of importance connected with this once important village of North Bucks.

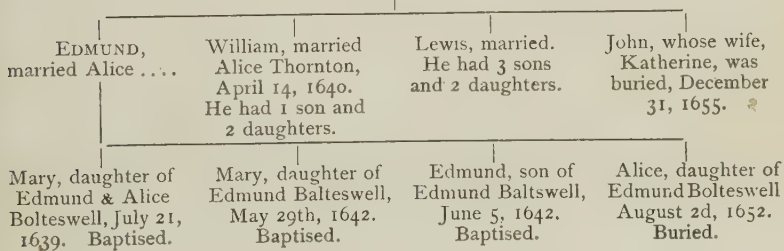
This Edmond Baltswell was a married man, as will be noticed by the inscription on the brass farthing showing two initials, that of himself, and his wife. He was probably the son of Henry Baltswell who was buried on the 15th June, 1635.

By what can be gleaned from the Parish Registers he had three brothers: William, Lewis, and John, and by the frequent entries from 1635 to 1655 they must have been an important family in the village. From this latter date there are no more entries of the family, and as there have been several leaves neatly cut from this ancient record, which might probably have shown the decline of the family, it is surmised that they took their departure to a place of safety when the plague raged so fiercely in the parish.

The following gives the lineage of Edmond Baltswell, the issuer of the trade token, and his family, as gathered from the Parish Registers.

HENRY BALTSEWELL, June 15, 1635. Buried.

JOAN BALTSSWELL, widdow, April 18, 1649. Buried.



The Village of Adersey,

once accounted to belong to *Lawndon*, has been long since extinct; the estate attached to it, being worth about £50 per annum. It was included in the grant to Sir Roland Heywood, by Queen Elizabeth.

The site of this bygone hamlet is probably that between the Grange and the Northampton road where several foundations have been discovered at various times. The supposition of this theory is strengthened by one of the fields, mentioned on page 5, being called "Adersey" in connection with the Grange.

The Castle.

The family of Bidun of Lavendon Castle, bore for their arms, Chequé Arg. and Gu. on a fess Az. three round buckles Or.

Of this stronghold there is nothing left except the very extensive moat which is almost perfect. The ground surrounded by the moat is where the castle stood, and has, since its demolition, been levelled and is known as "Denton's Hollow." This lies to the east of the farm house known as the "Castle Farm." This residence, too, is surrounded by a smaller moat or earth work which may have been thrown up in those turbulent times. To the north of this smaller moat is one of like dimensions. Whether these two of less importance were constructed to contain water for the safe-guarding of the crops and cattle or for the use of those who defended the castle is not known. For whatever purpose they were required, they must have incurred a vast amount of labour in construction. The only relic remaining of the Bidun's here is their fish pond at the rear of the farm house which was found to be partly paved when the present tenant, Mr. Alfred Billing, had it cleaned out one very dry summer late in the 60's. Since then there has been no carp in the water, but formerly that fish was found in great abundance here. In a field near the house a brass seal of the XIVth Century was discovered, showing the head of Christ and the inscription: *NON SWILK AS I. (Not such as I)*; also various coins and counters. Foundations of great size are often discovered in all directions from the principal portion and dressed stones in considerable quantities are continually unearthed.

It appears by an ancient institution to the Vicarage of Lavendon, now in the Registry of the Bishop of Lincoln, that the Castle was standing in the year 1232, since it is stated in the record of the institution, that the Abbot of Lavendon was bound to provide a chaplain, to officiate in the Chapel of St. Mary, in Lavendon Castle.

The Park Farm

is but a little distance from the Castle Farm. The residence is ancient, but void of anything of an architectural character. Near to it are remains of a moat, which once, perhaps, surrounded a mansion, to which the park was attached. But history is silent on this site.

The Manor of Uphoe

belongs also to the Farrer family. The Manor House is an ancient structure on an eminence, from which a beautiful panoramic view is obtained. Much of the moat is still existing, and also a large fish pond.

Lavendon Abbey.

In this parish, was an Abbey of Premonstratensian Monks, founded in the reign of Henry II., by John de Bidun, a Baron, in honour of St. John the Baptist; but, in other accounts, it is said to have been likewise dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Its revenues were estimated, when it was dissolved, in the reign of Henry VIII. at £79/13/8 clear yearly value. The Charter of foundation is preserved in the Monasticon.

The Abbey itself, that stood due east from the present Grange, has quite disappeared, but its site is well defined by the moat that exists, the well defined hollows in the low ground that were probably the fish ponds, and the adjacent burial ground from whence many skeletons have been unearthed. On one occasion ten were discovered in a perfect state of preservation. There is a tradition that a duchess lies buried in this place of interment, this may have arisen from Lady Bassett, of Drayton, who died in 1403, and willed to be buried in the chancel of the Abbey here.

The Premonstratensian monks were also known by the name of White canons from their habit which was a white cassock with a rocket over it, a long white cloak and white cap. They, being strictly forbidden to eat flesh, took care to provide themselves with as many varieties of fish as they possibly could. The vow of abstinence from flesh was insisted upon in early days, but as the order grew wealthy this strictness became irksome, so they procured leave from Pope Nicholas iv. to eat flesh on journeys, soon afterwards they were permitted to eat meat all the year except from Septuagesima to Easter.

The Survey of this house, previous to the dissolution, was as follows : It was the value of £78/8/8. There were 11 Canons, whereof 9 were Priest, and 2 Novices. Incontinent none. Desyren capacitys 9 : impotent and not able to labour for their living 4 : servants 20, whereof waiting servants 7 : hinds 8 : women for the day 3 : children 2 : bells, lead, &c., worth by estimation, £73/6/8. The house wholly in ruins. The entire value of the moveable goods £37/18/10. Stock none. Debts none. Woods 54 acres, whereof under 20 years growth 50. Parks, &c., none. Commons none.

In 1553, there were no pensions remaining in charge, and only an annuity of 20/-.

The List of Abbots of Lavendon is very imperfect; the following names only being preserved :

AUGUSTIN, in 1236.

JORDAN, in 1254 and 1271.

JOHN DE LATHBURY, elected in 1312.

ROBERT HELMEDEN, in 1478 and 1488.

WILLIAM CURLEU, in 1491. He governed until 1500;
and in his time, the following account was taken of
the names of the religious :

DOMINUS WILLIAM CURLEU, Abbas.

RICHARD HALL, Sub-Prior.

THOMAS GORNEFIELD.

WILLIAM BULWICK.

JOHN HARWELL.

JOHN KETLING.

WALTER WIGTON.

EDMUND LATHBURY.

JOHN KENT, Succentor.

JOHN SHARP, Canonici.

JOHN KIRKBY, Vicar of Lavendon.

JOHN HALL, Vicar de Shotteswell, Warwickshire,
Canonici Beneficiati.

WILLIAM CALYS, in 1553.



Seal of the Abbey.

HALF SIZE

The seal, representing St. John baptising Christ, has the following inscription : **S BAPTISE . D : L'WENDENNE . SI'ILL.**

According to the accounts of Bishop Tanner, the income of the Canons, ten or eleven, amounted, in 26 Henry VIII., a little before the Dissolution, to £91/8/3½; and in clear receipts to £79/13/8.

The Grange,

situated on an eminence, in the Domestic Gothic style with gables, was built in 1626 near the site of the old Abbey, by Robert Eccleston, who had purchased the Manor about the year 1617, of William Newton, of Yardley Hastings, and out of some of the materials of the old structure; which, from the remains of the buildings at some distance on all sides, indicates a stately fabric of considerable extent. Over the entrance is a sundial bearing the date 1626, and the inscription *Percunt et imputantur*. He was succeeded by his son John Eccleston; and the son of the last mentioned, was another Robert, by whom, the the Advowson being severed from the Manor, the former was passed to Lady Scott, as is said, in 1605; and in 1660, to the Earl of Grainsborough; but the Manor was resold by Mr. Eccleston, to Mr. Thomas Newton; from whom, it came into the hands of Richard Newton, D.D., youngest and only son of the aforesaid Thomas Newton, Lord of this Manor, in whose family and female descendants, the Manor and Estate are still vested. Dr. Newton died in 1753, having had issue, only one daughter by his first wife Catherine, daughter of Andrew Weton, of Northamptonshire; for, by his second lady he had no issue; and having evinced great munificence and generosity to this Parish, of which, a very correct account is inscribed on his monument in the Church, his estate ultimately passed to the descendants of the Rev. Simon Adams; whose father, Knightley Adams, had married Jane, his only daughter and sole heir.

It seems clear, that the estate of the Peovers, in this Parish, descended to the Lords Zouch; and was sold to the Mordaunts, with other estates in the neighbourhood; and that it was afterwards transferred to the Comptons; Hatton Compton, son of the Earl of Northampton, being in possession in 1700; and that about the same period, the Mordaunts disposed of their demesnes and the Castle Manor here, out of which the lands of Snelson were taken, as that Estate is not found separately mentioned as a Manor in the ancient deeds; as also the Town Manor, since so denominated, and claimed as such by the Farrers of Brayfield, having sold it to the family of Chester, of Chichley; until at length, in the reign of Elizabeth, it was settled upon Sir Robert Peckham; and passed, by purchase, to the family of Newton.

The Rev. Richard Newton, D.D. sold this estate in 1851, to Mr. Benjamin Sculthorpe Brookes, who thoroughly restored it in 1857, and resided here until his death in 1890. At the death of his widow in 1896, the furniture, plate, and family paintings were sold by Messrs. Stafford and Rogers, of Bedford. The paintings were bought by the compiler of this work in whose possession they still remain. The estate passed to a grandson who was at that time a minor.

Much of the moat still remains and the views from the house are delightful. A field, a short distance from the house, is known as "Fair" Field, where doubtless the fairs of the lords of former times were held. In a field, also close by known as the "Northampton Hills," was found in 1863 a gold epaulet, by a man named Edward Panter, and some companions whilst they were clodding. These men took it to "Abbey" Higgins, of Turvey, for him to purchase, and he valued it at £10. Through this gentleman's enquiries it came to the knowledge of the Rev. William Tompkins, who at once claimed it; as it had been found on the church lands. Roman and early English coins have frequently been found; also several kinds of Nuremburg card counters, of brass, which were imported by the monks who used them as money and for counters in their games of skill. The inscription on the obverse of one of these is *AVE *MARIA *GRACIA

The Living

is a Rectory, with that of Cold Brayfield annexed, valued in the King's Books at £6, and now worth about £270. The church belonged to the Abbey until that establishment was suppressed.

The Rectory.

The Rectory House, a good stone building, was erected in 1839 by the Rev. William Tompkins. It is pleasantly situated on the south side of the church, in tastefully laid out grounds.

Embedded in a wall at the rear is the lid of a stone coffin decorated with a floriated cross. This ancient piece of work was found whilst making excavations, and it was kept for many years in the vicarage.

The Church,

dedicated to Saint Mary, is an ancient structure and was, until the restoration in 1859, completely covered with stucco. It consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north and south porches, and west embattled tower. The latter appendage, supposed to be of Saxon date, is 66 feet high, exhibits three layers of what is termed herring-bone masonry round its centre; and has plain round-headed loops, widely splayed inwards. It contains a clock and five bells with the following inscriptions:

ALEXANDER RIGBE MADE ME 1689.

The nave and aisles are embattled and covered with lead; the chancel is tiled. The porches retain their stone sediles; the south one has a stone coffin lid placed in the east wall bearing a floriated cross sculptured thereon; supposed to be that of one of the Abbots. The doorways of the aisles are Early English, and the porches are Perpendicular; the tower arch is of simple Norman character; and the three arches on each side of the nave are all of Transition Norman work. These arches are acute and plain, and rest on round piers and square imposts; those on the north side are less lofty than the others; the caps of the southern arches have heads beneath the abaci; the caps on the north side are plain; and the chancel arch is plain. At the east end of the south

aisle are a tall recessed trefoiled niche, and a small trefoiled piscina showing that spot to be the site of a chantry altar. The clerestory of the nave is lighted by six two-light windows, and the wooden roofs are open. The font is octagonal, with panelled tracery and flowers on the side of the basin. The east window of the chancel, and the eastern window in the south side are Perpendicular; under the latter are two plain seats (sedilia); and on the same side is a cinquefoiled piscina, and a priest's door. The chancel on the north side has two slender lancet windows widely splayed inwards. The chancel is paved with Minton tiles and fitted up with oak stalls, desk, and rails. The three-light coloured east window representing the Crucifixion, the upper parts containing angels and sacred monograms, was presented by Mr. Brookes, of the Grange, who was one of the church-wardens. The glass used was chiefly that which had resulted from the careful analysis of the old window. The motto is "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world;" and there is a brass plate under the window inscribed, "Presented by B. S. Brookes, Esqre., in commemoration of the Restoration of the church, 1859." On the south side of the chancel there is a lancet window representing Christ blessing little children. This is also worked up from the same glass and the motto is "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mr. Coles, a fellow church warden of Mr. Brookes, placed this tribute to the memory of three of his children, George Henry, Ellen, and Lucy Jane.

Vicars of Lavendon-cum-Brayfield.

NICHOLAS DE EMBRETON, Capellan, presented to the Vicarage of Lavendon, on authority of a Council, by the Abbat and Convent of Lavendon, and at his death WALTER DE FALMERSHAM was presented in 1262.

RICHARD died in 1296.

SIMON DE LAVENDON succeeded 8 May 1296.

JOHN DE HAVERSHAM, instituted 15 March 1312. He died; and

ROBERT DE LAVENDON was instituted 16 February 1326.

SIMON SMYTH resigned 1361; and was succeeded by

SIMON AUMFREY, presented 4 November 1361.

THOMAS ROUS DE NEWPORT PAGNELL, instituted 16 July 1376.

HENRY MONGLE was presented 18 June 1381. He resigned; and

ROGER RAUND, alias Richard was instituted 14 January 1401. He resigned; and

ROBERT BOSTON was presented 5 October 1409. He died in 1416; and

HENRY BOYS was instituted 16 October 1416. He died; and

WILLIAM MORYS was instituted 10 September, 1420; but resigned.

THOMAS HARDING was instituted 6 February 1420.

STEPHEN GARDYNER died in 1452.

THOMAS HASYLBURY succeeded 8 October 1452.

WILLIAM HUSBAND was instituted 23 September, 1454.

JOHN KIRKBY, "Canonicus de Lavendon," instituted 28 November 1489. He died; and

ROBERT FIREBY was instituted 18 March 1526.

HENRY HAYNES was instituted 9 August 1531; and occurs Vicar in 1539 and 1540.

He and all his predecessors were presented by Lavendon Abbey.

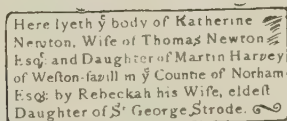
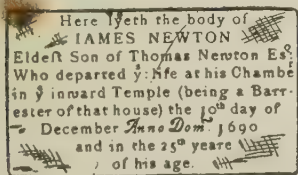
RICHARD HUCKTYME is supposed to have succeeded about 1549; and being grown old, quitted it about 1565, for a pension; for, in the Register of Lavendon, is this entry: "Richard Hucktyme, sometye Vicar of Lavendon, was buried 28 May, 1582."

EDWARD DICKER, presented by Thomas Pountes, and instituted 15 September 1565, WILLIAM KIRKWOOD, presented by Thomas Pountes in 1566.

- THOMAS NEWTON, instituted 1 March 1580, on the presentation of Roland Heywood; and buried here 28 May 1629.
- RICHARD ROBOTHAM, presented 10 July, 1629, by Robert Eccleston and Anthony Elcock.
- NATHANIEL WAKER was presented in 1632. He occurs Vicar 1639; and, dying 19 August, was buried here 21 August 1654. A tablet to his memory is to be found in the vestry.
- EPHRAIM PIPPIN succeeded 1654. He died 3 May 1670, and was buried here. A tablet to his memory is in the vestry.
- FRANCIS WALSALL, instituted 5 August 1670, on the presentation of Viscountess Campden.
- SAMUEL MUSGRAVE, A.M., instituted 27 March 1693, on the presentation of Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough, with the consent of Lady Noel, his mother and guardian. He died and was buried here.
- NOEL LAWSON, L.L.B., instituted 22 September 1701, on the presentation of Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough. He died and was buried here 21 June 1721.
- CHARLES TITLEY, instituted 6 November 1721, on the same presentation.
- CORNELIUS BELGRAVE, instituted 7 May 1725; who resigned, and
- JOHN CUMBREY was instituted 7 April 1726.
- JAMES DOVE, instituted 2 February 1729-30, on the presentation of the Earl of Gainsborough. He exchanged it for a living in Yorkshire, with
- PHILIP HOLLINGS, A.B., inducted 22 March 1734. He was much afflicted with gout, and died 1764.
- BAPTIST NOEL BARTON was presented about November 1764, by the Earl of Gainsborough.
- CHARLES BARTON, A.B., inducted 16 November 1793, on the presentation of Henry, Earl of Gainsborough.
- JOHN ELLICOTT, A.M., instituted on the presentation of Sir Gerard Noel Noel, Bart. He was also Rector of Hornfield, and Vicar of Exton, Rutlandshire, in the same patronage. His successor was
- WILLIAM TOMPKINS, A.M., presented 1838, by Charles Lord Barham, afterwards Earl of Gainsborough. He eventually purchased the living of the Earl of Gainsborough; and was succeeded by his son
- GERARD W. TOMPKINS, 1866; who was followed by
- H. POWELL in 1874.
- GEORGE POCHIN SOAMES, presented 1875, by the trustees of the late Francis Larken Soames.

Andrew Chester, Esq., gave a silver plate for offerings at the Altar.

There were formerly two brasses to the Newtons in the church but as they had lost their effigies they were never replaced after the restoration, being carefully stowed away in the vicarage. The following illustrations were sketched from the originals, by kind permission of the Rev. G. P. Soames, the present rector, who accidentally found them some few years back.



There are also memorials of former rectors, and of members of the families of Newton, Adams, Gent, and Rogers. There is a curiously

carved headstone in the church yard, near the east window, representing Death in the act of taking a child in full health. The lettering has unfortunately perished beyond recognition. Several leaden coffins have been dug up at various times in the east end of the church yard.

The rents of nine acres of "Church Lands" are applied to the repairs of the church. This is the benefaction of some one unknown.

In the chancel was formerly a tablet with the following epitaph :

Here lyeth the Body of John Clifton, who departed this life May 19th, 1690. He dyed in the 17th yeare of his age.

You, Gentell Reader, that stands by my Tome to Vew,
I was on Earth as well as you ;
But as I am, so must you be ;
Therefore prepare to follow me.

There was formerly a board affixed to the east end of the nave, above the arch leading into the Chancel, bearing the following memorandum :

By the award of the Commissioners appointed by the Lavendon Enclosure Act, there are allotted to the Minister and Churchwardens for the time being, as Trustees of the Lavendon Church Land, &c., 8 acres 3 roods 39 perches of Land adjoining the Church Houses, called also the Poor House, or Workhouse ; which Houses, with the yard, garden, and premises appertaining thereto, belong to the said Trustees, being part of the same Donation, in lieu of Lands in the unenclosed Field in the Parish of Lavendon. The Income arising from the land and houses is to be expended in repairing, ornamenting, &c, the Church of Lavendon aforesaid.

Signed this 10th day of August, 1823.

N. F. TEMPLE, Curate.
J. BILLING, } Ch. Wardens.
GEO. PARRIS, }

The register commences with the following remark. " The Register of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials at Lavendon, as were left written in an old Register, by Mr. Thos. Newton, some time Vicar of Lavendon-cum-Cold-Brayfield, since the year of our Lord God 1574."

From this and succeeding volumes (of which one upon paper has become quite decayed, through damp), the following entries are extracted :

12 Novr 1563. - We doe allow and approve of John Buncley of Lawndon to be Parish Register for the towne of Lavendon aforesaid, to register all Births, Marriage, and Burialls, according to the late Act of Parliament.

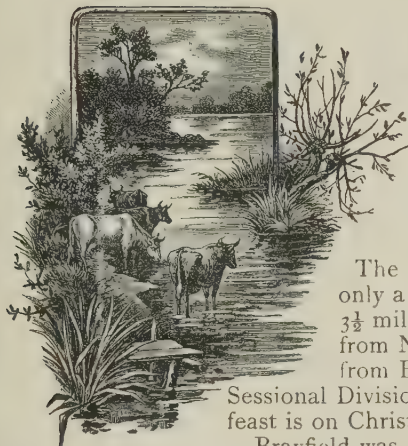
HEN. WHITBREAD,
WM. HARTLEY,
WM. FROSKETT.

Elizabeth Roberts, lately y^e wife John Roberts, a Tallow Chandler in Hungerford Market, in y^e Strand, in the County of Middlesex, of a middle stature, brown hair'd and black eyed, aged about 24 years, was whipped, and sent to St. Martin's in the Fields, London (where she was born) Jan^y 23^d. 1698.

It appears, from the Registers, that the plague raged with great violence at Lavendon, in 1665 ; the number of burials in that year being seventy-two, while the average of the seven preceeding years amounted to only ten. In 1658 the sweating sickness here was very severe as the great number of burials registered, testify.

Appendix.

COLD BRAYFIELD



YS a small parish on the verge of the county. The river Ouse divides it from Bedfordshire on the east, and from Newton Blossomville on the south, on the west it is bounded by Clifton Reynes, and on the N. by Lavendon. Its area is 680 acres; and its population 85.

The village is very small; consisting of only a few houses and cottages, and is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east from Olney, 8 miles N.N.E. from Newport Pagnell, and 8 miles west from Bedford. It is in the same Petty

Sessional Division, etc., as Lavendon. The village feast is on Christmas Day.

Brayfield was included with Lavendon in the Norman Survey, being that portion of land of Judith, Countess of Huntingdon, held by Gilbert de Blosseville, mentioned on page 2. It is presumed to have become a parish about 1120, for in 1147, on the foundation of the Priory of Harrold, a village a few miles away, in Bedfordshire, the church here was given by Robert de Blossomville to that convent. The family of Druel held the manor of Brayfield in the time of Edward I.; and it was afterwards in the hands of the Swinfords, Newnlams, and Bassets. On the death of Ralph, Lord Basset, in 1389, the estate descended to Thomas, Earl of Stafford, his cousin and next heir; and it continued in that family until the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, when Henry VIII. (in 1524) granted it to Sir Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrars of Chartley. Henry, Lord Mordaunt, died in possession of it in 1608, when it came to his son John, who was created Earl of Peterborough in 1627. Henry, his son, second Earl of Peterborough, conveyed the estate with the mansion house, about 1648, to the family of Farrer, reserving to himself the titular manor, which was sold about 1669, to John Bodington, rector of the adjoining parish of Newton Blossomville; and the grand-daughter of the latter is presumed to have carried it in marriage to Thos. Dymock. About 1714, Mr. Dymock sold this property to William Farrer who maintained great hospitality at the mansion house, which he greatly improved. This gentleman was many years chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Commons. His daughter and heiress married the son of the Rev. Spurgeon, who added to his own name that of Farrer. George Dennis Farrer, Esq., is the present lord

of Brayfield. The parish was inclosed in 1801, when an allotment of land was set apart for the lord of the manor, as impropietor of the tithes.

Brayfield House,

the property of George Dennis Farrer, is a handsome mansion delightfully situated in a well wooded park of about forty acres on a commanding eminence, overlooking the village of Newton Blossomville. The gardens and pleasure grounds are extensive, beautifully diversified, and well stocked with every variety of shrubs, plants, and flowers, the last being planted in parterres adorned with vases, etc.

The Living

is annexed to that of Lavendon. The patronage is entirely unconnected with the property of the family of Farrer, the impropietors.

The Church.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small ancient very Early English structure and consists of a nave, chancel, north porch, and west tower. The last appendage is low, square, embattled, and contains three bells inscribed

First : IOHN CLARKE MADE ME 1607.

Second : E. BODINGTON CH. W. ALEX. RIGBE MADE ME 1688.

Third : ROBT. WHITWORTH C. WARDEN MDCCCXVIII.

The nave and chancel are tiled, prior to the restoration in 1881 the nave was leaded. The inner door of the porch has a semicircular arch with the chevron ornament, and Norman columns. The tower arch, which is very small, is open to the nave. The arch between the nave and the chancel has short columns at the basement, one is plain, the other sculptured. The wood work of the roof of both nave and chancel is stained to represent oak and the neat open benches are of pitch pine. The oak pulpit and reading desk are of modern design and replaced the old ones in 1881. The font is in unison with the church, small and plain, and is supported by a fluted circular column, placed on an octagonal basement. The piscina is exceedingly low down in the south wall of the chancel. The east window, of coloured glass, was presented by the widow of Sir Matthew Edward Tierney, third and last baronet who died in 1860. The subject is the Angel Gabriel appearing unto Mary, and the inscription "To the beloved memory of her father and mother by Mary Lady Tierney." There are grave slabs inscribed to the memory of members of the families of Bodington, Temple, and Farrer. In the churchyard there is nothing of interest to the antiquarian. The registers, dating from 1693, are kept at Lavendon.

NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE.

THIS small parish which is gradually depopulating, is situated on the river Ouse, and on the borders of Bedfordshire. It is separated from Cold Brayfield by the river, is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east from Newport Pagnell, and 3 miles east from Olney. It is bounded on the north by Lavendon, on the north-east by Cold Brayfield, on the east by Turvey, on the south and west by Clifton Reynes. The population in 1851 was 352; 1861, 332; 1881, 260; and 1891, 191. The area is 1,050 acres, principally belonging to the lord of the manor, George Dennis Farrer. The village consists of a few houses and cottages, besides the old manor house, situated near the east end of the church and on the Turvey road; a school, erected in 1822, at the expense of the Rev. Joseph Gould, curate of the parish at that time; and the *Old Mill* inn. The inhabitants are chiefly agriculturists. The old village ale-house stood at the opposite corner of the road to where the rectory stands. It was demolished a few years back and a stone bearing the following inscription, in the front of the house, was

T. S.

1703

E. ♥ S.

taken charge of by Mr. J. H. Robinson, who has it at the present time in his garden. The same gentleman has also a curious four-light stone window which was discovered when taking down one of the ancient cottages at the west end of the village. The feast is held on the Sunday before Christmas Day. This village is in the same ecclesiastical and civil jurisdiction as those before-mentioned.

Manorial History.

It appears to have been, at the Domesday Survey, included in Lavendon, and to have been part of the lands of the Countess Judith; after which possession of the estate, like most others in this part of the county, a family deriving their name from the place, appears to have holden it in the reign of Henry I.; and there are numerous records proving the possession of the Blossomvilles in that reign, and in the reigns of Stephen and John and their successors. The Blossevilles, or Blossomvilles, gave lands in Brayfield to the Nunnery of Harold, in Bedfordshire. As early as the reign of John, they were patrons of Newton Church, and held possession of this estate until the year 1265.

In 1203, a fine of lands here was passed between William Knight, *Potent*, and Clement, son of William, and Robert de Blossomville,

Tennants, of lands in Newenton, to the use of Clement ; and in 1209, another fine of lands here was passed, to confirm the gift made to the Priory of Harold, of demesnes in Brayfield ; and likewise by Gilbert de Blossomville, in 1254, in which year John de Newton gave lands in Newton Blossomville to Jordan, Abbat of Lavendon. In 1264 Lady Alice de Blossomville, and John Druel, joined in a fine of lands and messuages here, to Simon de Blossomville, for life ; Alice (elsewhere called Arnice) being, as is presumed, the heiress of the Blossomvilles, and then married to Sir John Druel, Knight, who thus became possessed of the estate ; of which he and his descendants, continuing in possession, exercised the right of patronage to the Church in 1264, 1291, 1298, and 1323 ; but Nicola, daughter and heir of William Druel, being married to Sir Thomas Swinford, Knight, carried the inheritance into another family. Sir Thomas Swinford, Knight, and the said Nicola, after the death of Simon Druel, parson of the church in 1355, presented to the rectory ; and in 1358, passed a fine of the Manor and Advowson to William de Burgh and John de Newnham, clerks, and Sir Thomas de Swinford, Knight, who appear to have transferred their rights to Ralph Lord Basset, of Drayton, who was in possession in 1370, and died in possession in 1389 ; whereupon this estate descended to Thomas Earl of Stafford, his next heir, who died in possession thereof in 1392 ; as did Nicholas Bradshaw, in 1424.

In 1427, a fine was passed between Sir John Reynes, Knight, and Alice his wife, *querents*, and Hugh Breadfull, clerk, *deforciant*, of the Manors of Clifton Reynes and Newenton, near Clifton, to the use of Hugh, who granted the same to Sir John Reynes, Knight, and Alice his wife, and the heirs of their bodies ; with remainder to the heirs of the body of Sir John ; and remainder to his right heirs.

Sir John Reynes, Knight, of Clifton Reynes, is said to have died in 1428, in possession of the Manors of Clifton Reynes and Newenton ; and in 1460, Humphrey Duke of Buckingham, was, by inquisition, found to have died in possession, *inter alia*, of the Manors of Clifton and Newenton ; as did Constance, Countess of Wiltshire, in 1475, who was daughter and heir of Henry Green, of Northamptonshire, and widow of John Stafford, youngest son of Humphrey Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wiltshire 9 Edward IV. ; after whose decease and the death of his wife and sons, this estate descended to Edward Duke of Buckingham, being purparty of the lands of Humphrey Duke of Buckingham, slain at Northampton in 38 Henry VI., who according to some accounts, gave it to Sir Walter Devereux, Knight. According to others, it was sold by his representatives to the Duke, and then given to Sir Walter Devereux.

HENRY VIII. in 1524, granted by Patent, dated 1 May, to Sir Walter Devereux, Knight, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, and to the heirs-male of his body, the Manor and Advowson of the Church of Newton Blossomville, which Henry Earl of Wiltshire held for life, and had come to the Crown on the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham ; and in 1535, the Lord Ferrars received a pension from Lavendon Abbey, at its dissolution, for lands holden in Newton Blossomville by that convent.

Queen Elizabeth in, 1596, granted to Thomas Crompton and Henry Lindley, this estate, by whom it was soon afterwards sold to the Right Hon. Lord Henry Mordaunt, who died in possession 13 February 1608, and was succeeded by John Lord Mordaunt, who was created Earl of Peterborough; by whom it was given, in 1640, to his kinsman, Lewis Mordaunt, who, by lease and release, in August 1649, sold this Manor and Advowson to Thomas Farrer, of Cold Brayfield; in whose descendant, William Farrer, it remained in 1735; and his grandson, Farrer Grove Spurgeon Farrer, also of Cold Brayfield, succeeded to the possession, which still remains vested in the same family.

Newton Park

where formerly stood the mansion of the Mordaunts, etc, is now a farm. Portions of the wall of the park remain, and a modern brick farm house occupies the site of the ancient manor.

The Living

is a Rectory, in the gift of the lord of the manor. The tithes were commuted for land in 1810. There are 156 acres of glebe. It is valued in the King's Books at £8/8/1½.

The Rectory.

was, in 1534, returned at £8/8/- per annum; and in the reign of Queen Anne, at the clear value of £72/17/8. The land tax in 1712, was £74/7/4. In 1534, a pension was paid to Clifton Church of 12d. per annum, this place being probably an ancient Chapelry to the former. The house, situated about 100 yards south of the church, is a good plain structure of stone, built apparently at different times and greatly improved by the present incumbent, the Rev. William Toovey, M.A., of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. The grounds are nicely laid out and are well kept. On the lawn is a monument to the memory of Mrs. Talbot with several verses written by her husband, the Rev. Talbot. This rector planted the orchard on the opposite side of the road to avoid its being made into a stone quarry, when the present road was constructed, as there is a right to dig stone anywhere in the parish except in gardens and orchards.

The Church,

The church of St. Nicholas is in the Early English style, but like some other churches in the Hundreds, the uniformity of the structure has been destroyed by the repairs wretchedly executed, many years ago. Its component parts are a chancel with north chapel, a nave with north aisle, a south porch, and a west tower with a good stair turret. The tower contains three bells inscribed:

First: THOMAS RUSSELL 1719.

* *Second*: JOHN HODSON OF LONDON MADE MEE 1658.

Third: REV. BEAUMONT DIXIE RECTOR JOHN LAUGHTON
THO. HAITT CHURCHWARDENS 1769.

* Landon probably an illiterate spelling of Lavendon.

Report has it that there were formerly six bells, which is probably correct as there were six places for ropes to pass through the flooring of the bell loft. The first of the present bells is smashed.

The nave is covered with lead and the chancel with tiles. There is a canopied niche and the remains of a sundial in the front of the porch, in the interior, is the old stoup for holy-water. There are two fine three-light Decorated windows at the east end; and some of two lights on the south side, equally good. Some Perpendicular windows have been inserted on the north side. Two pointed arches resting upon an octangular pillar divide the nave and aisle; the east impost contains a piscina; and there is a bracket in the north wall, thus showing this spot to have been a chantry; the wooden roofs of the nave, aisle, and chancel are visible, the pulpit, is of oak and the open benches are stained oak colour; the chancel arch is pointed; and the font is ancient. The tracery of the east window is very good, and on the north side of the window is a bracket for a statue or lamp. The piscina remains in the south wall of the chancel under a cinquefoiled canopy. A sedilia is in the sill of the south window of the chancel. The north chapel is separated from the chancel by two pointed arches supported by a clustered pillar with moulded capital. In the geometrical tracery of the head of the east window of the chapel, are a few fragments of ancient stained glass. That an altar formerly stood beneath this window, is shown by the piscina, ambry, and brackets for statues that remain. On the north wall of the chapel is a handsome marble tablet inscribed to the memory of the Skevington family.

Prior to the restoration of the church in 1562, there was a brass to the memory of Jane, eldest daughter of John Bodington, Clerke, and Bridget his wife, 1663; and one to the memory of one of the Bodingtons, this one still remains in the church but is unfortunately covered by the organ. The inscription only being visible.

HERE LYES THE BODY OF M^{rs}. BRIDGET BODINGTON LATE WIFE OF IOHN BODINGTON CLERK, WHO DECEASED NOVEMBER Y^e 3^d 1673 RESVRGAM.
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In the church yard is an enclosed square spot, the burial place of the Talbots. On the wall are six marble tablets inscribed to members of the family. There is also a handsome stone in memory of a Whitworth.

Rectors.

GALFRIDUS, first rector, died, and was succeeded by
WILLIAM DE MIDDLETON, presented 1264, by the Lady Alicia de Blossomville. He died; and
ROBERT DE RICHMOND was presented 3 April 1291, by Sir John Druel, Knight; and on his cession,
WILLIAM DRUEL was presented 11 October 1298, by Sir John Druel, Knight. He died; and
ROBERT DE LA HEYE was presented 5 May 1323, by the Lady Amicia Druel. He resigned; and

- SIMON DRUEL was presented 2 May 1340, by Sir Thomas Swinford, Knight. At his death,
- RICHARD PAGE was presented 1 August 1355, by Sir Thomas Swinford. Knight. He resigned; and
- RICHARD DE BROMLEGH was presented 6 September 1364, by John de Newenham, clerk. He exchanged for Tindale rectory, with
- JOHN CAPELL, 14 October 1364; who, in about one month, exchanged with
- ALAN RAYSON, instituted 26 November 1364, on the presentation of John de Newenham, clerk; and resigned in favour of
- JOHN WARYN DE BUCKLY, who was presented by John Newenham, clerk, 3 June 1367. He exchanged for East Haddon vicarage, Northamptonshire, with
- WILLIAM HARDY, presented 26 October 1370, by Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton. He exchanged for Skidbrooke vicarage, with
- THOMAS DE BIRMINGHAM, who was presented 17 August 1387, by Ralph Lord Basset. He exchanged for Bierton vicarage, with
- HIGH ATTE FELD, 25 February 1390, on the presentation of Elizabeth Beauchamp
- THOMAS BRADSHAW was presented 20 March 1398, by the King.
- JOHN WARD was presented 25 July 1400, by Nicholas Bradshaw.
- JOHN HANNES, resigned in 1455; and was succeeded by
- HENRY WHITSTON, A.B., presented 13 February 1455, by Humphrey Duke of Buckingham. On his cession
- ROBERT PROCTOR was presented 28 January 1457, by Humphrey Duke of Buckingham
- WILLIAM LEIGHTON was presented 29 September 1462, by Sir John Stafford, son of Humphrey Duke of Buckingham. On his cession,
- JOHN THOMAS was presented by John Earl of Wiltshire, 26 January 1471.
- THOMAS THOMAS succeeded in 1483. He became in 1499, rector of Akeley, in exchange with
- WILLIAM BRADFIELD, L.L.B., presented 31 March 1499, by Edward Earl of Wiltshire. He died and
- ROBERT GILBERT was presented 6 April 1502, by Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. He resigned; and
- RICHARD ROPER was instituted 15 November 1503, by Henry, brother of Edward Duke of Buckingham.
- JOHN HODGEKYN, presented 28 December 1553, by Anthony Cave. He died; and
- EZEKIAS BROWNE was presented and instituted in 1567, by Walter Devereux, Viscount Hereford.
- JOHN PRICE, instituted 22 March 1577, by William Lord Burleigh.
- WILLIAM LUCAS, A.M., was presented 11 February 1595, by Thomas Lucas. He resided at Turvey, where he was also Rector.
- JOAN CROWTHER, A.M., was instituted 23 June 1635, on the presentation of John Earl of Peterborough. He died; and
- JOHN BARTON, A.M., was admitted 27 October 1637, on the same presentation. He died; and
- RICHARD BULKELY, B.D., was presented 22 March 1641, by John Earl of Peterborough.
- PETER PURCHAS called himself Minister in 1650.
- JOHN BODDINGTON succeeded in 1652; occurs rector in 1660; and died in 1677
- SAMUEL MANNING, A.B., was presented 12 October 1677, by Thomas Farrer. At his death,
- ROBERT NEVILLE was presented 17 July 1634, by William Farrer. He was also rector of Astwood, and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM WARBURTON, A.M., presented 13 September 1726, by Dionysius Farrer. Upon his cession,
- WILLIAM SALISBURY, A.M., instituted 5 August 1730, on the presentation of Dionysius Farrer. He resigned; and
- WILLIAM COLES, A.M., was instituted 3 January 1752, on the presentation of William Farrer. He was the son of Charles Coles, rector of North Crawley. On his cession
- MATHEW KEATE, clerk, inducted 4 November 1754, on the presentation of William Farrer, of Brayfield. He died and; was succeeded by

BEAUMONT DIXIE, A.M., instituted 15 March 1763, on the presentation of William Farrer; and, on his cession, was succeeded by

ROBERT HARRIS HURST, clerk, inducted 17 February 1773, on the presentation of William Farrer, of Great Ormonde Street, in Middlesex. He was a most eccentric man and generally caused a great amount of amusement for the young swells of the village of Turvey, by the manner in which he partook his lunch on Sundays. Having to officiate both at Carlton and Turvey besides his own village, he was obliged to start off betimes for Carlton to take the morning service, afterwards walking to Turvey where he made a habit of having his lunch at the "Three Fishes," weather permitting, he would give orders for his *quart* pitcher of ale and his bread and cheese to be brought to him in the porch of this hostelry where, if the weather was at all warm, he would divest himself of his coat and vest and then invariably had to stand a good share of banter from a young Higgins and his friends, for whom he was always a match. On one occasion, when the visitation was at Bedford, and he was a little late starting, he noticed the Bishop's coach leave the Abbey, at Turvey, and thinking his lordship was in front he divested himself of as many clothes as was becoming and carried them over his arm. Outside Turvey he broke out into song and whilst passing Pict's Hill he was giving vent to an old tap-room song at the top of his voice, entitled *My friend the pitcher*. At this moment he became aware of the cantering of a horse behind him, on the grass, and before he could turn round he heard the following remark: "Hurst, if you would use your voice as well in the church as you do out of it; it would be much better." To his astonishment he found it was the bishop who was addressing him. There are so many anecdotes about this shepherd of the flock, who seemed to study himself quite as much as his congregation, that it is impossible to give them in the limited space this work will allow, and therefore the following will suffice to bring to a close, his career. At Newton church, the women who went for churching were in the habit of occupying one particular seat, and on one occasion, when Mr. Hurst had gone through a portion of the service he went to a woman, and putting his hand in his pocket pulled out a sixpence and offered it to her, saying at the time "You take this and go, it will do you more good than my lecture." At his decease,

WILLIAM COWLING, A.M., was presented 22 July 1814, on the presentation of John Wolfe, clerk, Cranley (Crawley?) in Surrey. He was a conspicuous character in the neighbourhood and always made a practice of driving his two white ponies to Olney every Saturday so that he could have his wig dressed.

JAMES HALE TALBOT, M.A., instituted 1846. At his death

WILLIAM TOOVEY, M.A., instituted 1880, on the presentation of G. D. Farrer.

There are about three acres of "Church Land," and about two acres of land have been left by an unknown donor for the use of the parish clerk.

The register dates from 1730, but unfortunately a portion was lost in the waste paper at the sale of a former rector, the Rev. Talbot, when also the church chest was sold through an oversight on the part of the executors.

Bishop Warburton.

With this village was connected the eminent William Warburton, for twenty years bishop of Gloucester; and though, while at Newton, Warburton was as yet unknown to fame he was already a man of great ability, dogged pertinacity, and boundless ambition. Born in 1698 at Newark, in Nottinghamshire, he was educated for an attorney, and at twenty-one commenced business in his native town. Finding little to do, he very soon became disgusted with the law, and hastily throwing it up he entered the church. Subsequently, gaining the favour of Sir Robert Sutton, he was presented to the living of Brant Broughton, in

Nottinghamshire ; where, in the quiet part of the country, he sedulously applied himself to the pursuit of literature, in which he had already obtained some distinction.

In 1736 he published his *Alliance between Church and State* ; and in 1748 the first volume of his great work the *Divine Legation*, the other four volumes appearing in the course of several years thereafter. This latter work was a marvel of learning and ingenuity. It had often been brought as a reproach against Moses that his code contains no reference to heaven or hell, and theologians had in vain resisted it with all sorts of apologies. Warburton, on the other hand, who delighted in paradox, boldly, in the *Divine Legation*, allowed the charge, and went on to argue that therein lay an infallible proof of the divine mission of the Hebrew law-giver. Had Moses not received miraculous assistance, he said, it was impossible that he could have dispensed with the armoury of hopes and terrors supplied by the doctrine of immortality. A violent storm of controversy was the result of this audacious defence ; but even Warburton's most rampant adversaries, and those who most cordially disliked his conclusions, could not but admire the gigantic scholarship that exhibited itself in this remarkable book.

The year 1739 was one of the most important in his career. The orthodoxy of Pope's Essay on Man having been attacked, Warburton published a series of letters in its defence, the result being a very intimate friendship between the divine and the poet. When Pope died in 1744 it was found that he had left Warburton half his library, and the copyrights of all his works, valued at £4,000. But this was only the beginning of his good fortune. In 1745 he married the niece of Ralph Allen, of Prior Park, Bath—Fielding's Squire Allworthy—to whom he had been introduced by Pope, and through her he inherited Allen's extensive property. Preferment in the church presently followed. After being successively prebend of Gloucester, prebend of Durham, and dean of Bristol, he was appointed, in 1759, bishop of Gloucester, from which high eminence, courted and belauded by the greatest in the land, we may fancy him, if we like, looking back, with more or less complacency, on the unknown attorney of Newark, and the poor curate of Newton Blossomville.

As a man, Warburton was not loved, or only by a very few particular friends. He was proud and haughty, and treated his antagonists with supercilious contempt. When his anger was roused, too, he took no care to bridle his tongue. For example he once said of Wilkes in the House of Lords that " the blackest fiends in hell will not keep company with him when he arrives there." That Wilkes was no saint everybody knows, but such a saying, at any rate in public assembly, scarcely befitted the lips, of a bishop. Bolingbroke, who had quarrelled with Warburton, became so bitter against him that he addressed a pamphlet to him entitled " A Familiar Epistle to the most Impudent Man Living." But there was a soft place in the heart of even the proud and arrogant Warburton. He loved, and very dearly, his son. That son was taken away from him, and he never really got over the loss. His death occurred in 1779.

CLIFTON REYNES.



THE PARISH CHURCH.

THE historical and once important village of Clifton Reynes is most pleasantly situated upon an eminence overlooking Olney. From this hill, or cliff, it derives its name, and it acquired the affix of *Reynes* from the family that possessed the principal manor. Extraneous fossils are found in a stratum of lime stone, and shells of a various character. The lime stone has been worked to considerable success by Mr. Gould for the last few years.

The village is small and compact and is 5 miles N.N.E. from Newport Pagnell, and 1 mile E. from Olney. It is bounded on the N. by Warrington and the river Ouse, on the N.E. by Newton Blossomville, on the S. by Petsoe, on the S.W. by Emberton, and on the W. by Olney. It is in the same ecclesiastical and civil division as the before-mentioned villages and Newport Pagnell. There is an ancient circular dovecote, of large dimensions, which is one of the noticeable antiquities of this rural spot. This curious structure is 63 feet in circumference at the base, is built of stone, and has a thatched roof. The population in 1891 was 203. The area of the parish is 1,444 acres, principally devoted to agriculture.

In the Domesday book the place is spelt in two ways, viz. : *Clistone* and *Clystone*.

The views from this place are remarkably pleasing, having the town of Olney, the spire of Hanslope church, Weston Underwood and its fine trees and park, the village of Emberton, and the river Ouse with beautiful verdant meadows, in the foreground. The poet Cowper has introduced into one of his lighter compositions a notice of this village :

“ I sing of a journey to Clifton
We would have perform'd if we could.”

Ancient and Manorial History.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Osulph, a Thane of that King, held a Manor in Clifton, which then, as well as at the Conqueror's Survey, included a portion of Newton Blossomville, Alli, another Thane of the King, held also a Manor here ; and smaller portions of land were held by the tenants of Alric Fitz Goding, and of Walvi, Bishop of Doncaster,

At the Domesday Survey, here were two Manors, both surveyed in the Ancient Hundred of Moulsoe ; as was also another Estate, which unquestionably, was likewise surveyed with them, and in the same Hundred, although the different modes of spelling the name seem to have created some doubt respecting them. These varieties in this ancient Record are very remarkable in Clifton Reynes, in which the Manor holden by King Edward's Thane, has the prefix of the *barbarous* name of *Molesoveslai* Hundred ; and the land of the Countess Judith, which had been, in the Saxon times, the Manor of Alwric, a subfeudatory of Wluui the Bishop, is called Moslai Hundred.

The land of Robert de Toden in Clifton was the principal Manor in extent and importance ; but he did not hold it alone, for his brother was joined with him in the tenure of four hides, to constitute that Manor. There were four carucates of land, in the demesne two ; and six villeins, with seven bodars, had two carucates. There were three servants, four carucates of pasture ; woods for four hundred hogs ; and these were altogether taxed at one hundred shillings ; in King Edward's time at £6 and this Manor, Osulph, a Thane of King Edward, held, and could sell it. In this Vill of *Clifton*, Siuret and Turbot held four virgates, which William and Roger had occupied ; as men belonging to the King, according to the report of the Hundredors, of these last above mentioned four hides, Alric a man of Osulf, held one virgate, and could sell it to whomsoever he would.

The land of the Countess Judith, held under her by Robert de Olnei, or Olney (supposed to have been Roger de Throckmorton) was holden at one hide and a half a virgate. There was one carucate of land, but it was uncultivated ; two bordars ; one carucate of pasture ; wood for ten hogs, then and constantly rented at 10/-. This land, two Thanes, belonging to Alric Fitz Goding, had holden, and could sell it. In the same Vill, Nigel held of the Countess one hide and half. There were two carucates, and these were in the hands of two villeins and four bordars. There was one servant, and the half or moiety of a mill, at 11/- rent. Two carucates of pasture ; wood for twenty hogs ; and from the fishery one hundred and twenty-five eels. It was and had been rated at thirty shillings ; in the time of King Edward at forty shillings. This Manor, Aluric, a man of Bishop Wluui held, and could sell it.

The lands of Robert de Toden, to whom the Conqueror gave the Manor, which had belonged to Alli, were only a small portion of the grants made to him, as one of the followers in the Norman Expedition ; he had also possessions bestowed upon him in Stone and Cheddington, in this County, besides many other Manors in other Counties ; and among them, Belvoir, on the borders of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, where he built that stately Castle, which overlooks the valley adjacent, which hence, is said to have been designated the Castle of Belvoir (or the beautiful view) which he made the head of his Barony, and one of the chief ornaments of that part of the country, as it has continued to be, under his descendants, the Dukes of Rutland.

At the time of the Norman survey, the feudatory tenants of Robert de Toden in Clifton, were William de Boscroard (or Borrard) and his

brother. Dugdale, from the Coucher Book of Belvoir, states, that he bore a venerable esteem to the English Protomartyr St. Alban; was the founder of a Priory, which he built near his Castle, and annexed it as a cell to the Abbey of St. Alban's; and himself and Adela his wife were admitted into the fraternity of that Abbey, as absolutely as any of the Convent, with promise, that after their respective deaths (if they should die in England), their bodies should, by leave of the Abbat, be buried at St. Alban's, or in that Church of our Lady at Belvoir, of their own foundation. He died 4 Aug. 1088; and was buried according to this agreement, in the Chapter-House of the Priory of Belvoir. In 1726, his coffin of brown stone was exposed to view of Dr. Stukely; and in 1729, it was seen by Mr. Nichols and Mr Gough, having on one side of the lid, "Robert de Todeni le Fondateur," and close to it the coffin of William de Albini (the *second* of those names, called also Meschines) his grandson. In the Register of the Priory of Belvoir, it is stated, that it was the body of the first William de Albini, called Brito, whose remains were there deposited.

The issue of Robert de Todeni, were William, Beringar, Geoffrey, and Robert; and one daughter Agnes, wife of Herbert de Rye, to each of whom he left great possessions.

The seignory of this Manor of Clifton, became the inheritance of his eldest son William, who was called William de Albini.

From what reason he assumed a surname different from that of his father, does not satisfactorily appear, but conjecture attributes it to his being so devoted an admirer of St. Alban, and so great a benefactor to his Monastery, which seems the more probable, as he is often called William de Albany as well as Albini, called Pincerna, on account of his office of Butler or Cup-bearer to King William Rufus.

This William behaved with so much valour in the famous Battle of Tenchebray, in Normandy, that it is said, with his single hand, breaking through the enemy, he determined the fate of the day. He was also equally eminent as a lawyer; and was a Justice Itinerant in King Stephen's time, with Richard Bassett; but afterwards adhering to the Empress Maud against the King, his Castle and all his lands were seized by the offended monarch, and given to Ranulph Earl of Chester, who held them for some time; which accounts for his lands in Clifton being sometimes described as parcel of the Honour of Chester. He married Maud, daughter of Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Huntingdon, widow of Robert, son of Richard de Tonbridge; and dying in the early part of the reign of Henry II. was buried in the Chapter House at Belvoir, near his father, the founder of that Priory; leaving issue, two sons, William and Ralph; William became his successor in his Barony; and Ralph was the ancestor of the Lords D'Aubeney, Earls of Bridgewater, of that name.

The second William de Albini was surnamed Meschines, as well as Brito, and had by Henry II. many parts of his inheritance restored; and among them was Clifton. In the 12th year of the reign of that King, he certified his Knight's fees to be thirty eight and a half, of which Simon de Posco Rahara (Borrard), the feudatory tenant of Clifton,

held three. He had two wives, Adelize and Cecilia; and dying 14 Henry II. was buried in the old Church of the Priory of Belvoir, leaving issue by Cecilia, William de Albini, the third, a manor, and in Ward to the King.

William de Albini, the third, attained his full age before the death of Henry II. In 6 Richard I. he was with that King in his army in Normandy; and had the Sherifalty of Warwick and Leicester for the last half of the following year. He was also Sheriff of Rutland 8th, 9th, and 10th of the same reign, and Sheriff of Warwick and Leicester for part of one of those years. In 1198, he was Sheriff of Buckingham and Bedford; and in that year accounted to the King for six hundred marks for the inheritance of Agatha Trusbut, whom he afterwards married. In 1201, upon the discontent of the Barons, he took part against the King; and being a person of known valour and great military capacity, was made, by the Barons, Governor of Rochester Castle, where he endured a very close siege, and only at last surrendered in fear of famine. By his rebellion, his estates were forfeited to the Crown; but he grew so much in the favour with Henry III. as to be appointed a principal commander in the army at the Battle of Lincoln, and obtained the restitution of a greater part of his estates, although not the Lordship of Clifton. He married, first, Margery, daughter of Odonel de Umfraville; and secondly, Agatha, daughter and co-heir of William Trusbut, widow of Hamon Fitz Hamon, Baron of Wolverton. By Margery his first wife, this William de Albini had four sons; Odonel, who died in his life-time; William, Robert, and Nicholas, who survived him. He died at Offington in 1236, and his body was buried in the Abbey of Newstead, which he had founded, but his heart under the wall opposite the High Altar at Belvoir.

William, his eldest son, was his successor. He stood firmly to Henry III. but died before the 32nd year of that King's reign. His body was buried before the High Altar in the Priory of Belvoir, and his heart at Croxton Priory in Leicestershire. He had two wives, Albreda Bisset, and Isabel, by the latter of whom, he had an only daughter, Isabel, who was married to Robert de Ros, of Hamlake; and from this Manor the Dukes of Rutland are descended.

This manor and estate, after the forfeiture by the treason of William de Albini, was retained not long by the Crown, but granted by Henry III. in the first year of his reign, to Simon de Boscroard, to hold the same of the King in capite.

William de Boscroard, or Borard, and his brother, held a Manor and lands in Clifton at the time of the Conqueror's Survey, under Robert de Toden; and Simon de Bosco Rahara or Bovard, a descendant, undoubtedly, of one of the brothers, was returned by William de Albini, as his feudatory tenant, holding three Knight's fees at the time of assessment made by Henry II. for an aid levied on the marriage of his daughter Maud, in 1165.

This Simon de Borard, or his son, of the same name (for it seems, from a Pedigree in the Harleian mss. that there were four of this family of the same name, in regular lineal descent), continued the feudatory

tenant of the Honour of Belvoir at Clifton, till the forfeiture of William de Albini the third, about the end of the reign of John ; and his estate at Clifton not being restored to him, when he was again taken into favour by Henry III. Simon de Borard obtained a grant of it from his paramount Lord, as part of the lands which had escheated to the Crown. The Testa de Nevil states, that Simon de Borard held three parts of a Knight's fee in Clifton and Newenton, of the King, as parcel of the fee of Albini, this record being presumed of the date of the first year of that reign.

Simon de Borard married Margaret, or Margery, daughter of Sir Asceline Sydenham of Titchmersh, Northamptonshire, who brought part of that Manor to her husband in marriage. He died before 1267 leaving issue, three sons, Richard, Asceline, and Robert ; and a daughter named Joan, married to Thomas Reynes of Stratherne, Leicestershire.

Richard de Borard, at the death of his father, became Lord Clifton ; and in 1297, presented Asceline, his brother, to the Church there. He died unmarried in 1291, as appears by an Inquisition taken after the death of Richard de Bosco Roardi in which it is returned, that he held rents in Leicestershire, and owed Suit of Court at the Castle of Belvoir.

Richard and Asceline both dying without issue, Robert de Borard, the youngest son of Simon, became Lord of Clifton in 1293, and was living in 1296, in which year he conveyed lands in this parish to Thomas Reynes, his nephew, but soon afterwards died without issue. The Manor of Clifton passed to the family of Reynes, in consequence of the marriage, 1275, of his only sister, Joan to Thomas Reynes ; and from this family the place took its distinguishing appellation of Clifton Reynes.

The family of Reynes had held lands at Stratherne, in Leicestershire, in the reign of Henry II. when one Ralph de Reynes, probably the father of Thomas, who married Joan Borard, granted lands to the Priory of Belvior.

In consequence of all his uncles dying without issue, Thomas Reynes became the Lord of Clifton, as heir of his mother, but died soon after, leaving Ralph, his son, the heir of his inheritance. Ralph de Reynes could not have long enjoyed this Manor, for he was dead before 1310 ; as in that year, his heir was in the wardship of Sir Roger de Tyringham, who by virtue of such wardship, presented to the Church of Clifton.

Ralph de Reynes had married two wives ; Amabel, daughter of Sir Henry Green of Boughton, Northamptonshire, by Catherine, daughter of Sir John de Drayton ; and another Amabel, daughter of Sir Richard Chamberlain of Petsoe Manor. He was buried at Clifton, where his altar-tomb, with figures carved in wood, still remains ; having on the south side of it, arms and quarterings of the Houses of Green and Drayton ; and on the north side, those of Chamberlain.

The eldest son and heir of Ralph de Reynes appears to have been named Thomas, who had been married, by his guardian, to one of his own daughters, named Cecilia, and probably before the completion of the tomb in memory of his father, on which are the arms of Tyringham.

He presented one of his wife's family to the Church in 1330; but the time of his death has not been ascertained. He was buried in the north Chancel of Clifton, where is a brass with the arms of Reynes unpaling Tyringham.

Thomas de Reynes, his son, had succeeded to the estate of Clifton before 1352; for, in that year, he levied a fine of the Manor, with remainder to the issue female of his marriage with Joane, the daughter of Sir Thomas Seyton of Seyton, Northamptonshire. He died 1389, and was probably buried at Clifton; but no proof of his interment there, has been discovered. He left issue, three sons, Thomas, John, and Richard; of whom Richard, the youngest, married into the family of Morteyne, and was settled at Marston Morteyne, Bedfordshire. Thomas Reynes, the eldest son, succeeded his father, and is stated by all the pedigrees of the family to have died a bachelor, but at what time is not known, nor the place of his interment.

John Reynes, his next brother, then became Lord of Clifton. He married three wives; first, Catherine, sole daughter and heir of Peter Scudamore of Wiltshire; secondly, Joane, daughter of Mr. Betler; and thirdly, Alice, daughter of John Hartwell, of Hartwell, Northamptonshire. The only surviving issue of the first marriage was a daughter, *Catherine* (Cecily?) who was married to Henry Street of London, to whom she carried the estates of her mother's family; and from her is descended, through the female line Brundell Earl of Cardigan. The issue of the second marriage was an only daughter, Margaret, married to . . . Branden, and from her are descended the female ancestors of the families of Pierrepont and Gibbon. By his third wife Alice Hartwell, John Reynes had an only son, named after himself; and on the birth of this child, he settled, by fine, in 1427, all his Manors and Lands upon him and his issue; with remainder to his own right heirs, in tail male; and dying in the next year, was buried in the north chancel of Clifton, where is his effigy in brass, in armour, and at his feet a plate, commemorating the day of his decease. The tomb with the figures of a man and woman, in alabaster, under the second arch of the chancel, was undoubtedly in memory of this John Reynes, and probably erected in his lifetime, soon after the death of his first wife, Catherine Scudamore; for many of the arms on this tomb are the bearings which she quartered, and which no other person of the family of Reynes, excepting this John, her husband, could, with propriety, have affixed to his tomb.

John Reynes, the son of John, by Alice Hartwell, was an infant when he became Lord of Clifton, on the death of his father, in 1428. He survived until 1451, about which time he died unmarried; and this branch of the family of Reynes then became extinct in the male line.

Thomas Reynes of Marston Morteyne, succeeded to this inheritance, and was the next Lord of Clifton. He was son of Thomas, son of Richard Reynes before-mentioned, who settled in Bedfordshire in the reign of Richard II. His father had died the same year (but before he had succeeded to the Clifton Estate), and was buried at Marston Morteyne, where a monument yet remains to his memory. Whether he quitted Marston, and removed to Clifton, is uncertain, as also when

he died ; for no memorial of him is found in either of these places. He married one of the daughters of John Broughton, of Toddington, Bedfordshire, and left three sons surviving, John, Thomas, and Richard. John Reynes, the eldest son, was of Clifton Reynes. He had succeeded to that estate early in the reign of Henry VII. was Patron of Clifton in 1498; and died before the accession of Henry VIII. He married, first, Agnes, daughter of Charles Ingleton, of Thornton (where she was buried in 1481), but by her had no issue ; and secondly, Agnes, daughter of John Tyringham of Tyringham, by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, married to John Dickinson, of Marston Morteyne.

Thomas Reynes, his next brother, who was in holy orders, succeeded to the estate at Clifton ; and exercised his right of patronage of the church there in 1507 and 1519, when he died a bachelor. Richard Reynes, his youngest brother, next succeeded as Lord of Clifton. He had married Maud, daughter of John Booth, of Dunham Massey, and obtained Clifton partly by purchase and partly by inheritance. He died in 1566, leaving three daughters his co-heirs, Alice, married to Thomas Lowe ; Mary, married to William Duncumbe, of Ivinghoe Aston, ancestor of the Duncumbes, of Great Brickhill ; and Elizabeth, married, first to Richard Bird, of Toddington, in Bedfordshire, and secondly, to Richard Bury of Hengrave, in the same County ; and in him the male line of the family with name of Reynes became extinct. Thomas Lowe, who married Alice, the eldest daughter of Richard Reynes, obtained Clifton as the inheritance and share of his wife, on the division of the property of the family of Reynes among the three co-heiresses. He was descended from Thomas Lowe, who had settled at Wavendon about fifty years before, and whose son, the father of this Thomas, had married a daughter of . . . Fitz Hugh of that place. He was Esquire of the Body and Captain of the Guard to Henry VIII. ; and on the death of his wife's father, fixed his residence at Clifton. He presented to the church here in 1553, in right of his wife, and died soon afterwards ; leaving issue an only son, Francis Lowe, the heir of his mother's inheritance at Clifton. This Francis married Thomasine, daughter of Charles Farrington, of Devonshire, by whom he had a numerous issue. Reynes, his eldest son and heir, succeeded him at Clifton ; Thomas married and settled at Sherington, where his descendants continued about a century ; Jerome married and settled in the west of England ; Anthony was a captain in the King's service, and died unmarried ; and there were also three daughters. Francis Lowe died in possession of Clifton about the middle of the reign of Elizabeth, certainly before 1595 ; but whether buried at Clifton, or not, has not been ascertained.

Reynes Lowe, who became possessed of Clifton on the death of his father, married Mary, daughter of Richard Ouseley, of Courtenhall, Northamptonshire, and by her had issue, one son and four daughters. He presented to the Church at Clifton in 1595, died 20 December 1618, leaving Reynes Lowe, his only son and heir.

Reynes Lowe (the second of the name) was only fifteen years and

one month old when he succeeded to the estate of Clifton. He married Mary, daughter of James Mayne of Bovington, Hertfordshire, an elder branch of the families of Mayne of *Dinton* and *Creslow*. By her he had an only son, James; and dying in 1657, was buried at Clifton 14 December in that year. Mary, his widow survived him until 1682,

James Lowe who succeeded to the inheritance of Clifton at the death of his father, married; and by his wife Elizabeth, had eight children born there. He is said to have been of expensive habits, and was engaged in Law-suits, in order to obtain possession of some property which he conceived to belong to his wife; which ended in his being compelled to dispose of his estate at Clifton, 1672; and nothing more is known of his family, than that his wife and two of his children were buried in the vault of the North Chancel, at Clifton, in 1683.

By an indenture, dated 21 February 1673, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Sir Anthony Chester of Checkley, Bart., James Lowe of Clifton Reynes, Esq., and his wife, and Mary Lowe of the same, widow, for the consideration-money of £13,500 conveyed to Sir John Maynard, Knt., Serjeant-at-Law, the manor and lordship of Clifton Reynes, with the advowson of the rectory, and all their appurtenances, described as "the manor house of Clifton; pasture round the house, called Water Hills, containing 36 acres; Hall Piece, of 16 acres; meadow ground, near the river, called Barn Meadow, 28 acres; New Field, 30 acres; three closes; three corn mills; a meadow of 2 acres; a close of 8 acres; a great close of 260 acres; Revell Mead, of 19 acres; Little Meadow, Leaze's, and Reynes' Close, 32 acres; a messuage, with 13 acres of arable, 6 acres of meadow; another messuage and lands; 3 messuages *cum pert.* Several parcels of woodland and coppices, viz., Reynes' Wood, 50 acres; Aldridge Wood, 24 acres; Pepie's-grove, 5 acres; Thorney Doles, 20 acres; Horse Close, 4 acres; Broad Close, 67 acres; Parson's Close, 23 acres; Middle Woodlands, 56 acres; Woodlands next the Dusse, 63 acres; Long Meadow Dusse, 9 acres; Nether Dusse, 7 acres; Upper Dusse Meadow, 31 acres; a farm and divers meadows, arable and pasture land in Clifton; all which are parcel of the said manor of Clifton Reynes."

By another indenture, dated 15 April in the same year, the same parties conveyed to Sir John Maynard, for the consideration before mentioned, together with the premises before described, the Manor, &c., capital messuage, mills, dove-house, Stubb's farm, and forty-three acres of arable, three of lay, and four of meadow, with divers messuage, rents, quit-rents, woods, and premises in the parish of Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville.

Sir John Maynard was the eldest son of Alexander Maynard, of Tavistock, Devonshire, and born there about the year 1602. At about the age sixteen, he was entered a member of Exeter College, Oxford, where he took his Bachelor Degree of Arts, but before he had completed that degree, removed to the Middle Temple, London, and was called to the Bar. In 1640, he was chosen one of the Burgesses in Parliament for Totnes; and in another Parliament, in November following, was so much noticed for his activity and address, as to be

appointed one of the committee to draw up evidence against the Earl of Strafford. He likewise managed the proceedings against Archbishop Laud; adhered to the Parliamentary interest; took the Covenant; and was one of the Lay Members of the Assembly of Divines. He advanced so much in popularity, upon account of his abilities as a Counsellor, that he was believed to have gained not less than £700 in one Circuit, a large sum at that period, and much greater than had been known to have been previously acquired by any other of his profession, upon such an occasion. In 1653, on the appointment of Oliver Cromwell to the Protectorate, Maynard was, by Writ dated 4 February, called to the degree of Serjeant-at-Law having previously taken the engagement (as it was denominated); on the 1st of May following, he was by Patent, made Lord Protector's Serjeant, and continued in great credit with his master, except upon one occasion, in which being counsel for Mr. Corey, an eminent merchant (who stoutly opposed one of Oliver's impositions upon the city, and had the boldness both to resist himself, and to advise others to refuse payment of an illegal tax, and withstanding all Cromwell's endeavours to wheedle and cajole him out of his money, had been thereupon committed to prison) the violence of Oliver extended to his Serjeant, and Maynard was sent to the Tower for presuming to question his authority. He obtained his liberty, after much humble submission; and, it is presumed, had less reverence and attachment to the Protector afterwards; or perhaps was less trusted by him, for he seems to have been little noticed from that time until the Restoration of Chas. II.; to which change the Serjeant manifested no aversion, or as some say, to which he gave a ready concurrence. He was called again, by the King's Writ, to the Degree of Serjeant, in June 1660; appointed the King's Serjeant, 9th Nov. and a Knight, on the 16th, of the same month, in the same year; was also appointed one of the Judges, but contrived to excuse himself from that office. In 1661, he was elected M.P. for Beeralston, in Devonshire, and joined the most zealous supporters of the Court, but when he perceived the evil tendency of the measures pursued, and the dangers which seemed likely to involve the interests of the Protestant religion and liberty, he exerted himself to check the undue influence of the Crown, and spoke both in the House of Commons and out of it, like a true patriot. He was a Member, in three successive Parliaments, for a borough in his native county, and in the Parliament of 1679, was one of the committee for managing the impeachment of William Viscount Strafford, for the share which that nobleman was accused of having in the Popish Plot. Upon this occasion, Serjeant Maynard, who had grown aged, manifested less zeal and activity than on the former trial of the Earl of Strafford. He represented Beeralston, in the Parliament of 1685, and upon the accession of William III. was constituted, together with Anthony Keck, of the Inner Temple, and William Rawlinson, Serjeant-at-Law, a Lord Commissioner for the custody of the great seal. He made an unsuccessful effort to attain his election for Middlesex, in 1689-90, but was seated for the borough of Plymouth. Soon afterwards, his great age and infirmities rendering him unable to sus-

tain the fatigues of office, he resigned his place as Commissioner of the Great Seal, and surviving only a short time, died at his house in Gunnersbury, Middlesex, 9 October 1690, and was buried with great solemnity in the church there, attended by Heralds and Officers of Arms, etc. Serjeant Maynard was amongst those who met to congratulate the Prince of Orange, on his arrival in England in 1688, being then ninety years of age, and a gay and lively courtier. The Prince complimented him on his period of life, and said that he supposed the Serjeant must have out-lived all the lawyers of his time; to which he replied, "I might have out-lived the law too, if your Highness had not arrived."

On the decease of Sir John Maynard, Clifton became the property of his only son and heir, Joseph Maynard, but he survived his father only a very short time, and died without male issue, leaving two daughters, his co-heirs. Of these, Elizabeth, the elder, had been married to Sir Henry Hobart, Bart, of Blickling, in Norfolk, who died in consequence of wounds received in the duel with Oliver Le Neve, 21 August 1698. She inherited from her father the Manor and Estate of Clifton; died possessed of it, in her widowhood, 22 August 1701; and was buried at Blickling; leaving issue, John Hobart, afterwards Baron Hobart and Earl of Buckinghamshire, who became Lord of Clifton, being then in the ninth year of his age; but before his death, in 1756, he sold this Manor and Estate of Clifton, to Alexander Small, surgeon of Chelsea, who died in possession thereof, 18 April 1752, soon after he had completed his purchase; and was buried in the north chancel.

Alexander Small, his only son, succeeded to the estate. He was only four years of age at the death of his father; and married, before he had accomplished his sixteenth year, a lady many years older than himself, by whom he had a son called Alexander, and one daughter. He married a second time and had several children. His eldest son, having attained his majority in 1793, joined in levying a fine to cut off the entail of the Estate of Clifton Reynes, which thereupon became vested absolutely in Alexander Small, the father. Alexander the younger, died in his father's lifetime, in 1794, and was buried in the north chancel of Clifton, without any memorial.

Alexander Small (the father) died in 1816, and was buried in the same vault; having by his will, dated 17 August next preceding his death, and proved in London, 16 October in the same year, bequeathed to his daughter and only surviving child, by his first marriage, Martha Elizabeth Anne Small, this Manor and estate, for the term of her natural life, with remainder to an illegitimate son, whom he designated, in his will, by the appellation of Arthur Small.

Martha Elizabeth Anne Small, being thus in possession under her father's will, carried this estate in marriage, in 1819, to Richard Hurd Lucas, of Worcestershire, who, in right of his wife became Lord of Clifton Manor and Estate.

Wake's Manor

The lands at Clifton, which were, at the time of the Domesday Survey

in the possession of the Bishop of Constance, and in the hands of Morcar his feudatory, which have been before alluded to as belonging to Alli, one of King Edward's Thanes before the Conquest, are described as consisting of one hide and a half. There was sufficient to employ two ploughs, and there were two kept, with six villeins and four bordars. There was one servant, also pasture for two teams; and a mill. The whole value being estimated at twenty shillings then, and at double that sum in King Edward's time, when Alli might sell this property. It is added, that it was reported by the tenants of the bishop, that this land had been acquired by exchange for *Bledone*; but it is difficult to determine where this place was situated.

The Bishop had also here one hide, held by Turbot, his tenant, which had belonged to Wuuli and his tenants, in the early times, and he could sell it. It was that portion of the lands which the Conqueror divided between Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance, and the King's niece, Judith the Countess; containing one plough, with one villein and three bordars; one servant; pasturage for a single team; wood for twenty hogs; and valued at ten shillings; but had been worth twenty in the time of King Edward.

When the Bishop of Constance was attainted for assisting Robert Curtois, Duke of Normandy, against his brother, William II., his lands were seized by that monarch, and his estate remained in the King's hands until Henry I. bestowed it upon *Halenod de Bidun*, with other lands, late belonging to the Bishop in Lavendon, Weston, and Filgrave.

Halenod was the founder of Lavendon Abbey; and died in the reign of Henry I., leaving a son, John, whom he made heir of his lands. John de Bidun thus became the next owner of this estate. He had several brothers, who were monks in the Priory of Saint Andrew, at Northampton; to which his brothers and himself were considerable benefactors. This John had two sons; John, his heir, and Halenod, who became Monk at Northampton; and five daughters; but when he died is not ascertained; it is probable, however, that it was in 1064; for in the next year, one John de Bidun, most likely his son, rendered an account at the Exchequer, for his relief on the livery of his father's lands.

John de Bidun, the younger, certified his Knight's-fees in 1165, to be five and a half, making his return in Northampton, where part of his lands were situated. The lands of this family had been originally nine Knights-fees, but probably the diminution might have been occasioned by the Endowment of the Abbey of Lavendon. He died before 1186; for in that year, Milo de Beauchamp and Richard his brother, accounted for payments at the Exchequer, for part of the fees which had belonged to John de Bidun. This John dying without issue, his lands were divided among his five sisters. Amicia was married to Henry de Clinton; Amabilia to Milo de Beauchamp; Isabel to Baldwin Wake; and Ermingard to Arnulf de Gatesden. The name and husband of the other sister have not been ascertained; but Blomfield, in his History of Norfolk, states it to be Maud, who left a son named Robert Fitz Jeffrey.

After the death of John de Bidun, these lands at Clifton became part of the share of Isabel the third sister, wife of Baldwin Wake. She was

then dead, and also her husband, so that they came to Hugh Wake, her son and heir, who had the Barony of Lydell, in Cumberland. Hedied in possession of this estate in 1242 leaving an only son, Baldwin, about four years old. Joane his widow (daughter and sole heir of Nicholas de Stuteville,) obtained the wardship of his heir, and held these lands until he had attained his full age in 1259.

Baldwin Wake did his homage in that year; had livery of his inheritance; and held this Estate till his death, in 1281. John Wake his son and heir, was then in his minority, and had livery of his lands on attaining his full age in, 1290, but he did not long enjoy his estates, for he died in 1300, leaving Joane his widow surviving, had two sons, John and Thomas. John Wake his eldest son, dying in his minority, before he had livery of his lands, Thomas Wake, his second son, became the next owner of this estate. He was summoned to Parliament as a Baron from 1317 to 1349, in which year he died without issue.

Hugh Wake, the grandson of Hugh Wake, of Blisworth, in Northamptonshire (who was a younger son of the last Baldwin Wake,) succeeded to this estate as the next heir male; and six years afterwards, in 1355, by Deed, bearing date at Clifton, on Wednesday, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, 29 Edward III., he gave these lands to Robert Mordaunt, of Turvey, and Joan his wife, which Robert was the son of his sister Roesia, who had been married to William Mordaunt.

William Mordaunt married Margaret, daughter of John Peck; and left by her two sons, John and William; and one daughter. He died in the reign of Henry VII. John, his eldest son, was seated at Turvey, and inherited his father's estate at Clifton. He was Sheriff of Bucks and Bedford in 1509; and was summoned to Parliament as Baron Mordaunt of Turvey, 4 May 1532; and died in 1562, leaving issue by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and co-heir of Henry de Vere, Lord of Drayton and Addington, in the County of Northampton, John, his eldest son and heir; two other sons and six daughters.

John, second Baron Mordaunt, next held this estate, he died in 1572, and was succeeded by his son, Lewis third Baron Mordaunt; who in 1570, was Sheriff of Bucks and Bedfordshire; and died 16 June 1601.

Henry, fourth Baron Mordaunt, eldest son of the last Lord, was the next possessor of this estate. He died 13 Feb. 1610, leaving John, his eldest son and heir, about ten years of age. John, fifth Baron Mordaunt, who possessed these lands on the death of his father, was, by Letters Patent dated 9 March 1627, created Earl of Peterborough, in the County of Northampton.

Henry, second Earl of Peterborough, eldest son of the former, was the next owner of this Manor, and so continued until his death 19 June 1697, without leaving issue male.

Charles third Earl of Peterborough, son of John, younger brother of the second Earl, and who had been created Earl of Monmouth in 1689, became possessor of Clifton on the death of his uncle. John, his eldest son and heir, died before him, in April 1710, leaving issue; and he himself died in October 1735, Charles fourth Earl of Peterborough, and second Earl of Monmouth, inherited the estate at Clifton, on the

death of his grandfather in 1735 : and held it during his life, until his decease, which did not take place until 1779.

Charles Henry, his only surviving son, fifth Earl of Peterborough, and third Earl of Monmouth, was the last owner of this estate of the Mordaunt family. He sold this property in 1789, to John Higgins of Turvey, in Bedfordshire. John Higgins died 5 July 1813, and was buried at Weston Underwood, with others of his family ; being succeeded in this estate by his son and heir, Thomas Charles Higgins, who was brought up to the profession of arms ; appointed a cadet in 1799, ensign 27 August 1800, in the service of Honourable Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies. He was promoted to a Lieutenancy, 21 Feb. 1801, and joined the European army in the same year. He assisted at the capture of the town and fort of Gualior ; and having been afterwards removed into the 22nd regiment of foot, was in active service in Dooaub. In April 1805, he was placed on the Staff under Major Thomas Harriott, and employed to force the payment of revenue from the Zemindars. In June he received a severe wound in the arm, in an unsuccessful attack upon the fort of Toorkaponah, which incapacitated him from farther service during about two years, and deprived him of the use of his right arm. He was, however, sent in command of a detachment, to settle the newly-acquired territories in the Hurrianeh district ; and joined Lieutenant Colonel Ball's forces against the town of Bhowanny, at the capture of which he was present.

In January 1810, he was in Colonel Martindale's detachment in Bundelcund ; in May, was in the expedition to Java ; and after the reduction of it, filled various civil as well as military offices, until 1813, when he was nominated to the judicial line, at the residency of Cheribon. In November 1816, he commanded the first battalion of the 22nd regiment, and was stationed at Hossinjabad. In November 1817, he accomplished a forced march to Nagpore, in which he suffered inexpressible hardships, fatigue and danger, in the severest weather ; and in December was Brigade Major to the Commander of the Cavalry, at the victory obtained over the enemy by a very sanguinary battle, in which eighty seven pieces of cannon fell into the hands of the Company's troops. Having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on the Bengal Establishment ; this brave officer revisited his native country and died at Ashburton, Devonshire, in 1828 ; being succeeded in this estate at Clifton, by Thomas Charles Higgins. It was afterwards sold to Joseph Robinson, who held it until his death when it was purchased by the present proprietor, J. W. Scorer, in 1891.

The Rectory.

The church of Clifton was founded by the family of Borard, on their estate of this parish, before the existence of Ecclesiastical Records, and probably soon after the Conquest, as no portion of the tithes here were given, either by the Albini family to the Priory of Belvoir, or by the Bidun family to the Abbey of Lavendon, both which houses were founded as early as Henry I. ; and the prevailing custom of those times warrant the inference, that part of the tithes would have been so bestowed, had

there not been a Church at Clifton.

The advowson was appendant to the Manor of the founder (Reynes's Manor), from the time of the foundation of the Church, until Simon de Borard, son of that Simon, who was mentioned in the return in 1165, as subfeudatory tenant of William de Albini, made a grant of this Church to the Priory of Stamford; and the Rectory being vacant in 1230, the Prior commenced a suit for the Right of Advowson, in pursuance of this grant; whereupon Simon pleaded, that if he had made any such grant, it was done during his minority, and while he was in wardship, and therefore it ought not to be construed to his prejudice; and the Court gave judgement in his favour, against the Prior. In consequence of this decision, Simon de Borard presented his Clerk to the Church.

The Right of Presentation continued afterwards, without interruption, in the successive Lords of the Reynes's Manor, until 1816, Alexander Small, by his last will and testament, dated 17 August, and proved at London 16 October gave the Advowson to Frederick Booth, of New Street, Spring Gardens, Westminster. William Lucas of Newport Pagnell, and Henry Lucas, of the same place, as devisees in trust for the benefit of Harry Alexander Small, whom the testator willed and directed should be, by the said trustees, or the survivors of them, his heirs and assigns, presented to the proper ordinary, to be instituted and inducted to the Rectory of the Church of Clifton Reynes, when and as the same may become vacant; and the said Harry Alexander Small shall be capable of taking Holy Orders, and of accepting and holding the same; and upon further trust, that in the event of the said Harry Alexander Small taking Holy Orders, and being so instituted and inducted, that the said devisees in trust, or their survivor, should upon the request, and at the costs of the said Harry Alexander Small, convey and assure the Advowson and the Right of Patronage of the said Church to the said Harry Alexander Small, his heirs and assigns for ever, in pursuance of his will.

The Rectory is valued, in the taxation made by the order of Pope Nicholas, in 1291, at £8/13/4 per annum; and in that record no lands in Clifton are noticed as the property of any religious house whatever. In the Ecclesiastical valuation of King Henry VIII., in 1534, this Rectory is estimated at £13/6/10½ and its value certified to be £7; and according to this value, tenths are now paid to the Crown, and 10/7d to the Archdeacon of Bucks. The nett value at the present time is £224.

In the Minister's accounts of the property of Lavendon Abbey, while in the possession of the Crown in 1537, it is stated that a yearly rent of 15/4d was received for lands in Clifton Reynes, which had formerly belonged to that religious house; and this Abbey, being of the privileged Order of Premonstratensian Monks, their lands were exempted from paying tithes to the Church, by Papal Authority. These lands in Clifton, were, with other property, in Newton, Willen, and Chalfont St. Giles, granted by Edward VI., in 1553, to John Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns, and called "a piece of waste land, and other lands, meadows, and pastures, in Clifton Reynes, in the occupation of George

Smith and Elizabeth his wife (and late belonging to the Monastery of Lavendon, dissolved), to hold the same by fealty of the Manor of East Grinstead." The received rent to be paid into the Court of Augmentations was so small, that it is conjectured the extent of the lands could not have exceeded thirty acres, and it was probably much less.

In 1569, Queen Elizabeth granted to Nicholas Yetserit and Bartholomew Brokesby, *inter al.* a close of arable or pasture in Clifton Reynes, called Kite's close, containing by estimation ten acres, then or late in the occupation of the Rector of Clifton, or his assigns; and also the Holme or Hook meadow, lying below the rails in Clifton, given and appointed to sustain a lamp or obit in the Church of Clifton, which had become vested in Henry VIII., or Edward VI., or Queen Mary, her predecessors, by reason of the dissolution of Chantries, without rents.

In 1571, a grant was also made by the same Queen, of this close called Kite's close, *cum pert.* which is described as having been given to sustain a procession in Rogation Week, to Richard Hill of Heybridge, in Essex, and William James of London, their heirs and assigns, in fee-farm, at one penny annual rent.

The Rector now holds Kite's close, which consists of four contiguous closes, containing 17 acres, let in 1821, for £18 per annum, but by whom annexed to the Rectory is not known. It is, however presumed to be still subject to the charge of "the procession in Rogation Week" viz., of finding bread, cheese, and ale, for the parishioners; for it is conceived that such a purpose was not comprehended in the statute for abolishing superstitious uses, and the custom is still observed of distributing one small loaf, a piece of cheese, and a pint of ale, to every married person; and the bread and cheese, and a half a pint of ale to every unmarried person resident in Clifton, on or about the feast of St. Stephen O. S. every year; and the rector, by immemorial custom, retains the residue of the rent and proceeds for his own use. He also enjoys, in right of his church, a comfortable and Convenient Parsonage-house, situate in a garden contiguous to the south side of the churchyard, with out-houses and other buildings belonging to the same; and two small closes of sward, a spinney, and 89 acres 3 roods 35½ perches of glebe lands, allotted and assigned under the provisions of an act of Parliament passed in 1822, for enclosing and exonerating from tithes, lands within the parish of Clifton Reynes, in lieu of his glebe lands, previously lying dispersedly in the open and common fields; and likewise is entitled to tithes in kind, throughout great part of the parish (the lands formerly belonging to Lavendon Abbey, as before mentioned, being excepted); and he received formerly an old annual composition of 12/- from the Rector of Newton Blossomville, for "out tithes," as it is expressed in the Terriers; but a payment of £10 per annum for tithes of old enclosures in Clifton appears to have had no legal foundation, being more than the whole value, as estimated in 1291.

The chancel is kept in repair at the expense of the Rector; and the north aisle attached to it, which is the ancient burial place of the Lords of this parish, is repaired by the possessors of Reynes Manor.

Rectors.

RALPH MALCLERE, presented 1230, by Simon de Borard, Knight ; and at his death
 ASCELINUS DE BORARD, presented 16 January 1267, by Richard de Borard ; and, at
 his death

ROBERT DE GRANESBY, presented 2 May 1293, by Richard de Bosco.

ROGER died rector 1310 ; and was succeeded by

ADAM DE TYRINGHAM, presented 5 December 1310, by Sir Roger de Tyringham,
 Knight, by reason of the custody of Ralph de Reynes's lands

JOHN TYRINGHAM, son of Sir Roger, presented 2 July 1330, by Thomas de Reynes,
 Lord of Clifton. He died, and was succeeded by

WALTER GROTE, presented 5 July 1349

HENRY DE BROKHOLE, presented 15 October 1361, by Sir Thomas de Reynes,
 Knight.

ROGER, son of Roger de l'Estend de Maidwell, presented 4 December 1364, by the
 same Patron. At his death

JOHN BASLEWELL was presented 1 September 1394, by John de Reynes, Knt. ; and
 was succeeded by

WILLIAM WANDESWORTH, who 27 May 1407, exchanged for Stanton in York
 Diocese, with

WILLIAM HAYWARD who exchanged it for St. Mary Somerset Rectory, in London,
 with

HENRY HAUNSARD, 6 May 1415.

AUGUSTINE BRIGHTFULL, resigned in 1458, and was succeeded by

JOHN RANDALPH or RANDALL, presented 20 October 1458, by John Ansty and
 Thomas Coke, of London. On his cession

JOHN VEYSEY alias HARMAN, D.C.L., was instituted 3 March 1495, on the presentation
 of John Reynes. On his resignation of this living

ANTHONY FISHER M.A., was presented 2 March 1498, by John Reynes ; and on his
 cession

ROBERT COOPER was presented 16 February 1507, by Thomas Reynes. At his
 death, he was succeeded by

RICHARD ELLIS, 11 November 1519 on the presentation of Thomas Reynes, and
 occurs rector in 1541 ; being succeeded, at his death by

WILLIAM ASTBURY, presented 20 December 1556, by John Goodwin.

THOMAS THATCHAM, instituted 14 December 1573, on the presentation of Thomas
 Lowe, on the the death of the last incumbent

THOMAS JONES, B.A. presented 16 December 1598, on the death of Thatcham, by
 Reynes Lowe. He occurs rector in 1607, and died in 1621.

THOMAS WEBB, A.B., presented by William Wake, John Ardres, and Roger Nichols,
 in 1621 ; and died rector, according to one account about 1660, and was buried
 at Brayfield ; but by another account at Clifton, 20 May 1665. He was vicar of
 Newport Pagnell from 1609, until he resigned that Benefice, upon being made
 rector here. It is reported that he was hung for sheep stealing.

SAMUEL PEPYS, M.A., instituted 3 July 1661, being first presented by James Lowe, on
 the death of the last Incumbent ; and again by the King, by lapse. He was
 licensed curate of Ekeney-cum-Petso 21 October 1664 ; and, dying, was buried
 here, 15 April 1704

WILLIAM UNDERWOOD, B.A., instituted 6 December 1704, on the presentation of
 James Selby, Sergeant-at-law, as trustee for the Hobart family. He was buried
 here 11 February 1723.

EDWARD ALANSON, A.M., instituted 6 March 1723, on the presentation of Sir John
 Hobart, Bart. He died 1745, and was succeeded by

THOMAS NICOLL, presented 14 November 1745, by John Lord Hobart. He died in
 1765

WILLIAM GARDNER, LL.B., was instituted 13 January 1765, on the presentation of
 Alexander Small. He had been, by the same Patron, made rector of Hardmead
 in 1759, and resigned this rectory, on being presented to Haversham, in 1791.
 He was succeeded by

THE HON. ARCHIBALD HAMILTON CATHCART, M.A., presented in 1791, by Alexander

Small, and inducted 10 November. He had been previously vicar of Ravenstone from 1789 and held that Living, together with the Rectory of Foscote. He resigned this Rectory in 1805, on being presented to the rectory of Methley in Yorkshire. His successor,

WILLIAM TALBOT, A.M., was presented by John Hale Talbot, of Olney, the grantee for this term, from Alexander Small, and inducted 17 May, 1805. He died, and was succeeded by

HENRY ALEXANDER SMALL, B.A., presented in 1832, by Frederick William Booth, William Lucas and Henry Lucas, trustees appointed by the provisions of his father's will. He was also rector of Haversham, and in the Commission of the Peace for the County. He sold the advowson to

WILLIAM SUTHERY, M.A., in 1863, who was succeeded by his kinsman W. STANLEY SUTHERY, M.A., who was inducted 22 October, 1895.

The Church,

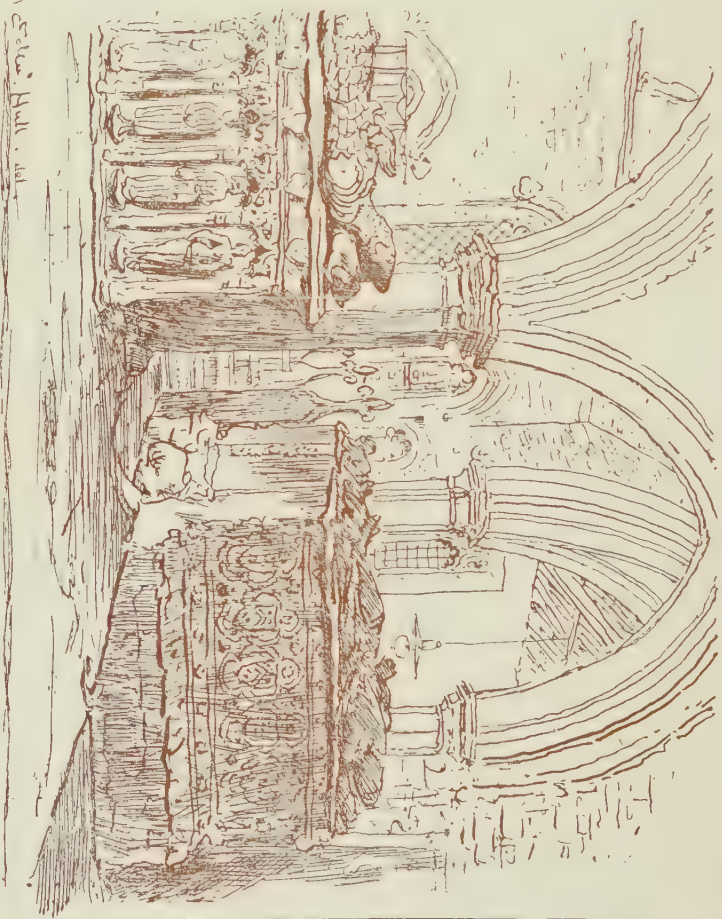
dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a most interesting structure, supposed to have been built about the time of Edward I. It consists of a chancel with north chapel, nave with north and south aisles, and south porch, and a low tower at the west end. The general style is Early Decorated, with good clustered piers and rather sharply pointed arches. In 1842-3 the body of the edifice was repaired at a considerable expense, partly by rate, but chiefly by the Rev. T. Evetts, who was curate at that time; and the chancel was repaired by the Rev. H. A. Small, the rector. Again in 1884, the Church underwent a thorough repair at the cost of £600, when a new oak roof was put in the chancel and was covered with lead, surrounded by a stone parapet. A stained glass east window representing the three Marys was presented by Mr. Thos. Revis. The hagioscope or leper's window was discovered and reopened, and the handsome sedilia repaired. This beautifying was entirely due to the exertions of the Rev. William Suthery, assisted by several sympathetic friends, not least amongst whom was the Rev. Canon Evetts, rector of Monks Risborough and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, who was the curate above alluded to. The tower, nave, and south aisle are embattled; the roofs of the nave, chancel and aisle are covered with lead; some of the Decorated windows of two and three lights are very good, others are Perpendicular, and a few, modern. The porch retains the old stone seats. The tower contains five bells, recast out of three in 1664, and bearing the following inscriptions:

First, 2nd & 3rd: IOHN HODSON MADE ME 1664 I G I S C W W H

Fourth: IOHN HODSON MADE ME 1664 IOSEPH GALE IOHN SHARPE CHVRCH WARDENS W H In this bell there are two shillings and four half-crowns of James I., and four half-crowns of Charles I.

Fifth: I L E S + IOHN HODSON MADE ME 1664 IOSEPH GALE IOHN SHARPE CHVRCH WARDENS W H There are crowns and half-crowns of Charles I., and a coin of Philip IV. of Spain.

All the interior fittings of the church are modern. Three arches on each side divide the nave and aisles; the chancel and tower arches correspond in shape, and a three-light window in the tower is seen through the latter. The old oak roofs of the nave and its aisles are



Clifton Reynes Church. 1841.

THE TOMBS IN CLIFTON REYNES CHURCH.

open, that of the nave is very high, and there are two windows on each side of the clerestory. There is, in the church, between the second and third arches of the south side of the nave, a recess in the wall known as a relic chamber which in former days held the plate. Another object worthy of notice is a niche for the Sanctus bell above the tower arch. This bell was sold early last century as old metal. At the east end of the south aisle is a three-light millioned window, and near it a handsome square-headed window of three lights. At the beginning of the last century the windows of the church were profusely ornamented in stained glass with the coat of arms of the family of Reynes, and their alliances, but all has been destroyed save some frag-

ments in the head of the east window of the south aisle, and in one of the clerestory windows. The octagonal font is very fine, and undoubtedly unique, each side being ornamented with the effigy of a saint, in bold relief, under a Gothic canopy, amongst which can be recognised St. Michael, St. Catherine, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Matthew, and one of the saints in a sitting posture bearing Christ, crucified between his knees and the dove, the emblem of peace, resting upon his uplifted hand. The basin is supposed to have been brought from the ancient church of Clifton which stood in the field known as "Butler's." The pedestal is of more recent date and in accordance with the structure of the church, being composed of apparently the same stone. It is surmounted by a carved oak pyramidal structure, which is raised and lowered by means of a chain pulley. The east window of the chancel is of three lights, but very plain. On the south side is a window with massive stone mullions and rich geometrical head

work, in the sill of which are three stone stalls graduating towards the east, forming the sedilia, the cinquefoil-work heading of which is enriched with slender stone shafts, having sculptured heads at the angles. This ornamental work, like the font, had been plastered over by the vandals of an age, happily gone by, but in its restoration a portion was unfortunately broken off by the workmen. Here, too, is the piscina; and there is another in the south aisle, showing that portion to have been a chantry also. On the north side of the chancel window two stone brackets are still remaining, the one for the statue of the virgin, and the other for the lamp. The north aisle or chantry chapel is divided from the chancel by two pointed arches resting upon an octagonal column with a moulded capital. It is lighted by one window.

In the north chancel are the effigies of a man and woman, carved in wood, in full proportion, lying on an altar monument, but no inscription or coats of arms, though there are three shields, or escutcheons of stone over it. Tradition ascribes this to one of the family of Reynes.



It is presumed that this monument is for Thomas de Reynes, who died in 1380; and who married Joan, the daughter of Baron Seton.

On the pavement, is a brass, as illustrated on the previous page, a portion of an effigy of a John Reynes, a soldier, in armour, and his arms at each corner of the stone; and at his feet, this inscription:

Hic inest Johes Reynes Miles qui obiit x^o die Marcij Anno
dm Millimo CCC^o xxvii Cuius aie ppicietur deus Amen.



Close by, on the pavement, are effigies of a man and woman wrapped in shrouds, in brass. Over the man these arms: Chequè, a dexter canton. *Reynes*. Over the woman, a saltire engrailed. *Tyringham*. The inscription is torn off. These brasses must have been for Thomas Reynes, son of Sir Ralph Reynes, by Amabel, who married Cecily Tyringham.

Between the two arches, in the north chancel, are two raised monuments. On the one nearest the Communion table, are the effigies of a man and woman in full proportion, in alabaster; and on each side, eight small effigies of males and females, children of the above; dressed in the costumes required by the professions they followed, as priests, monks, lawyers, etc., with coats of arms over them, as follows:

On the south side, next to the nave:

1. A fess between six cross-crosslets fiché. *Beauchamp*.
2. A saltire engrailed. *Tyringham*.
3. A bend between six martlets. *Seyton*.
4. An escutcheon in fess between eight martlets. *Erpingham*.
5. A cross engrailed. *Drayton*.
6. A cross fiché in chief a demi-lion.
7. Three stirrups with leathers. *Scudamore*.
8. On a chief a lion passant.

On the opposite side, next the north chancel:

1. Gu. a chev. between three escallops. *Dyve*.
2. Erm. a fess charged with three crosses potent. *Brisley*.
3. A saltire engrailed. *Tyringham*.
4. Erm. a chief indented Gu. *Morteyn*.
5. Three arches. *Seyton*.
6. Three bucks. *Green*.
7. (Imperfect).
8.bezants, and a canton. *Zouch*.*

The damage to this monument is believed to have been done by the horses of Oliver Cromwell, when he used the church as a stable.

Under the other arch is another monument, altar fashion, with effigies of a man and woman carved in wood, in full proportion, and on

* The arms of Zouch were brought into the family of Reynes by the marriage of Sir Thomas Green, grand-father of Amabel, the wife of Sir Ralph Reynes, to Lucia de la Zouch,

each side of these, arms and shields, viz., on the south side, next to the chancel :

1. Eleven bezants, and a canton erm. *Zouch.*
2. A saltire engrailed. *Tyringham* empaling *Reynes.* Chequy, a canton erm.
3. Erm. on a fess three crosses fleury.
4. Three bucks trippant, probably *Green.*
5. A cross engrailed. *Drayton.*

On the north side, next to the chancel :

1. Three arches.
2. A chev. chequy between three escallops. *Dyve.*
3. A chev. between three escallops. *Chamberlain.*
4. Chequy, a canton erm. *Reynes.*
5. Two lions passant, with a label of three points for difference.

There is no inscription remaining ; but unquestionably, it was erected to the memory of one of the family of *Reynes.*

At the east end of the north aisle are three handsome tablets, memorials of the Small family. One of these exhibits a fine bust, by *Scheemaker*, of Alexander Small in a large wig. There are also tablets to the memory of the families of Brooks and Talbot, and slabs bearing inscriptions to members of the Pryor, Pepys, Nicholl, and Underwood families.

The Registers have been most carefully written and date from 1653.

The Churchwardens' accounts, dating from 1665, are most interesting in detail. From these accounts several items will be found in the following chapter, on Olney.

The small school was built in 1844, by the Rev. T. Evetts.

The rent of the church allotment is carried to the churchwardens' account.

The bells were not made at Lavendon, as is supposed, owing to one of the bells at Newton being made by the same maker, and inscribed LANDON. The A is a wrongly substituted letter for an O. An example of the carelessness of this noted London bell-founder.

In 1712, it was returned to the Bishop of Lincoln that there was no charity in the parish.

In 1786, Kite's Close was returned to the House of Commons as Charity land, of the value of £12 per annum and used, by custom, to treat the inhabitants on the day of Boundary Procession.

Clifton Hall,

called also the Manor House, has quite disappeared. It was a large unpicturesque mansion, and built of stone, about 1750, by Alexander Small. It stood probably on the site of the ancient castellated residence of the former noble lords of the manor, and about one hundred yards to the east of the church. The fish pond, a portion of the avenue, and the wall around the garden still remain.

OLNEY with WARRINGTON.



OLNEY with the hamlet of Warrington is the most northerly parish of the county. It is bounded on the north, by Northamptonshire; on the east, by Laven- don and Clifton Reynes; on the south, by Ember- ton and the river Ouse; and on the west by Weston Underwood. The town is 5 miles from Newport Pagnell, 12 miles south-east from Northampton, 12 miles south from Wellingborough, 12 miles west from Bedford, and 57 miles north-west from London. The population in 1841, was 2,437; in 1891, 2,399. The area of the combined parishes is 3,078 acres, and is about 4 miles long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and belongs principally to the lord of the manor, Lord Dartmouth. It is in the same ecclesiastical and civil jurisdiction as the before-mentioned parishes.

Manorial History.

Olney, in the latter period of the Saxon Kings, formed part of the extensive property of Borret, or Borgret, a powerful Saxon, descended from the ancient Kings of Mercia, who held, with this Manor, lands in Weston Underwood, Lavendon, Sherington, and Lathbury, in this neighbourhood and County; as well as several Manors in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. After the battle of Hastings, Olney was bestowed by the Conqueror, on Geoffrey Bishop of Constance.

At the time of the general Survey recorded in Domesday Book, Olney formed part of the demesne lands of that Bishop. It was taxed as ten hides; the plough-land was ten carucates, three hides, consisting of three carucates, were in the Bishop's own demesne; and twenty four villeins with five bordars held seven carucates, there were five servants; and a mill, yielding annually forty shillings; and two hundred eels; the meadow land was answerable to ten carucates; the wood afforded mast for four hundred hogs; the value of the whole was £12; when the Bishop first had it, the value was only £7; but it was worth £12 in the time of King Edward the Confessor, at which time, Borret held it; and one socman of his, had a virgate and a half, and could sell it.

This Geoffrey Bishop of Constance, was appointed by the King to preside as Judge, at the memorable trial on Penenden Heath, between Lanfranc Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop Odo, the King's brother, Earl of Kent; and had jointly with the same Odo, the command of the army sent into the eastern counties, 1074, to quell the rebellion raised by Ranulf Earl of Suffolk and Norfolk, and Roger Earl of Hereford, because the King had refused his consent to the marriage of the former nobleman with the Earl of Hereford's daughter.

It is probable, that the Bishop of Constance returned into Normandy immediately after the death of the Conqueror. In the subsequent

disputes between Robert Duke of Normandy and William Rufus, respecting the succession to the Crown of England, he adhered to the former, and consequently, all his lands in England were confiscated. Thus, in 1093, Olney remained in the hands of William Rufus; and was probably, granted by him, among other lands, to Hugh Earl of Chester, as a reward for his fidelity, in all the attempts made against his authority by his elder brother Robert, according to the policy of Sovereigns, of rewarding their faithful adherents, with the forfeited estates of those who had been rebels.

The Earl of Chester had accompanied the Conqueror from Normandy; and having, probably, committed many excesses as a soldier, had recourse to the means of atonement common to that age; and when he found his latter end approaching, was shorn a monk in the Convent of St. Werberge, at Chester, in July 1101; and died there three days afterwards, leaving issue, an only son, Richard, who succeeded his father in the Earldom, of Chester, and became the next Lord of Olney. He unfortunately perished by shipwreck, with the two sons of Henry I. on their return from Normandy, in 1119, dying unmarried.

Ranulph, surnamed de Briscard, son of Ralph de Merchines, by Maud, the sister of the first Earl of Chester, succeeded to the Earldom and estates of his cousin, and became the next Lord of Olney. He died in 1129; and was buried near the first Earl, in the Convent of St. Werberge, in Chester; leaving issue, two sons, Ranulph and William.

Ranulph, the eldest son, surnamed de Gernons, to distinguish him from his father, was the fourth Earl of Chester, and succeeded to the Manor of Olney. He is represented, by contemporary historians, to have been a of very mercenary character; and in the disputes between Stephen and the Empress Maud, to have sold his allegiance to the highest bidder. In pursuing his ambitious views, he obtained from Henry II., before his accession to the English Throne, a conditional grant of the lands of William Peverell, of Nottingham, unless, as the words of the deed express, the said William could acquit himself of his wickedness and treason in a Court of Justice. What the accusation against William Peverell was, has not been ascertained; but to avoid a trial and preserve his estates, he is believed to have poisoned this Earl in 1154, in the last year of the reign of Stephen, and then to have become a monk, to shield himself from justice. This Ranulph de Gernons gave to the monks of St. Peter, in Gloucester, an annual rent charge of forty shillings, out of his mill at Olney.

When livery of the lands of the last Earl of Chester was given to his son Hugh, surnamed Kevelix, who succeeded him, it appears that this Manor of Olney, was retained by Henry II., for, the rent of it was annually accounted for at the Exchequer during great part of his reign, sometimes by the Sheriff of Bucks, and occasionally by the Sheriff of Northamptonshire. He was likewise in rebellion against his sovereign; and Olney might perhaps be held in the King's hands on this account, but he made his peace, and had his lands restored to him before his death, which happened in 1181. He was buried at Chester. His issue

was an only son, named Ranulph, and four daughters; Maud, married to David Earl of Angus, in Scotland; Mabel, to William de Albini, Earl of Arundel; Agnes, to William de Ferrars, Earl of Derby; and Hawise, to Robert Quincey.

Ranulph, surnamed Blundeville, the last Earl of Chester of this family, obtained the restoration of this manor of Olney, with all its privileges, after the death of his father, either from Henry II. or Richard I. He died at Wallingford 1232, without issue, having holden the earldom of Chester about fifty years; and his inheritance was divided amongst his sisters and their representatives. The maner of Olney was of the purparty of Mabel, his second sister, who had been married to the Earl of Arundel, but died in the lifetime of the earl, her brother; as had also William, her eldest son; whereupon Hugh de Albini, her second son, then Earl of Arundel, and in his minority, came into possession of this manor.

This Hugh married Isabella, daughter of William Earl Warren and Earl of Surrey, but died without issue 1 May 1243, and was buried at the Abbey of Wymundham, with his ancestors, leaving his great inheritance to be divided amongst his four sisters; Mabel, married to Robert de Tatshall; Isabella, married to John Fitz Alan; Nichola, married to Roger de Someri; and Cecilia, married to Robert de Montalt.

Olney was, however, assigned as part of her dower, to Isabella, his widow, who survived him until the beginning of the reign of Edward I., and founded the nunnery of Masham, in Norfolk, which manor she had of the gift of her father at the time of her marriage. After her decease, Olney became the property of Nichola, the wife of Roger de Someri, third sister and co-heiress of Hugh de Albini, husband of the aforesaid Isabel.

Nichola was the second wife of Roger de Someri, and, having no male issue, on her decease, in 1284, her inheritance was divided among her four daughters; Joan, wife of John le Strange, of Knockyn; Mabel, wife of Walter de Sully; Matilda, wife, first, of Henry de Erdington; and, secondly, of William de Byfield; and Margery, wife of Ralph de Crumbwell; who appear to have inherited the manor of Olney in equal shares; for, in 1302, William de Byfield died in possession of a fourth part of this manor, of his wife's inheritance; and in 1311, Mabel de Sully died possessed also of a fourth part of this manor. The purparty of John le Strange seems to have been very soon alienated by him; and at an early period after the death of the Lady Nichola de Someri, a part of the manor, with the advowson of the church of Olney, had been acquired by John Grey, justice of Chester, who gave his estate here, in marriage with his daughter, to Ralph Basset, Lord Basset of Drayton, who died in 1299.

To him succeeded his son Ralph, who presented to the Church in 1303, as heir of his mother, and, either by exchange or purchase, acquired the other portions of the Manor before 1348, in which year he died possessed thereof, with the Knight's fees belonging to the same; leaving Ralph Basset, his grandson, his heir, being then of the age of seven years.

This Ralph Basset, who inherited Olney from his mother, the daughter of John Grey, married Joane, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; and, previous to the death of his son Ralph, before mentioned, divers fines were passed of Manors belonging to the Bassets, among which was Olney, with ultimate remainders, in failure of the male-line of that family, to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick; which remainders took effect in the reign of Henry IV.

Ralph Basset, the grandson, making proof of his age, 29 Edward III., did his homage, and had livery of his lands. He armortised the Manor of Warrington, in this parish of Olney, in favour of the Abbey of Lavendon, 7 Richard II., and by will dated 13 Richard II., ordained a Chantry, *inter alia*, in the Chapel of our Lady, in the churchyard of Olney; and died 10 May 1390, without issue, leaving Joane, his widow who held Olney in dower till her death, in 1403.

Under the limitations of a fine passed by Ralph Basset, grandfather of the last mentioned Ralph, the Manor of Olney came in 1403 to Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who had succeeded to the honours and inheritance of his father under an act of 1 Henry IV., by which they had been restored, so that the grants of the reversion of Olney, after the death of Joane Basset made by King Richard II. during the exile and attainder of Thomas Earl of Warwick to the Duke of Norfolk and Duke of York, etc., never took effect.

Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick was, in 1418, created Earl of Albemarle (having before been dignified with the order of the Garter), and died in possession of this manor, 17 Henry VI., leaving a son, Henry, his next heir, and a daughter Anne, married to Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury; and was buried in Beauchamp Chapel at Warwick.

Henry succeeded his father in this manor, amongst other great estates, and being highly in favour with Henry VI., was by that monarch, in the 22nd year of his reign, created Premier Earl of England, being then only nineteen years of age, and soon afterwards advanced to the dignities of Duke of Warwick, and King of the Isle of Wight. He had, in his father's lifetime, and when only ten years of age married Cecily, daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, and had issue by her, a daughter, but he lived not long to enjoy his estates and honours, dying 11 June 1445, at Hanley, in Worcestershire, the place of his birth, being then about twenty-two years of age, and was buried at the Abbey in Tewkesbury.

Anne Beauchamp, his daughter, then an infant, succeeded to her father's estates and honours, but survived him not more than three years; whereupon Anne, her Aunt, was found to be her next heir. She had been married to Richard Nevill Earl of Salisbury, who, in her right became also Earl of Warwick, which dignity was confirmed to him by Patent, 27 Henry VI. This great lord was slain in the battle of Barnet in 1471, and his estates confiscated; and it was declared by an Act of Parliament, that his two daughters, Isabel, married to George Duke of Clarence; and Anne who was married to Richard Duke of Gloucester, the king's brothers, should succeed to their mother's inheritance, in the same manner as if she had been naturally dead.

In the partition of her lands, Olney fell to the share of the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., in right of his wife, and he presented to the rectory in 1574; and notwithstanding the death of his queen in the preceding year, continued to hold the manor of Olney, till the fatal result of the battle of Bosworth-Field transferred his crown and his estates to his more fortunate competitor, the Earl of Richmond, who then ascended the throne, as Henry VII.

Henry pretending to commiserate the hard fortunes of the House of Warwick, caused an Act of Restitution to be passed in Parliament, in the third year of his reign, to Anne, Countess-Dowager of Salisbury and Warwick, sister and heir of Henry Duke of Warwick, of all her lands; and she presented to the church of Olney, which became vacant in the course of that year; but it appears, that the real motive of the king, in this proceeding, was to get possession of all the Warwick lands, by an undisputed title; for the countess was scarcely put into possession of her paternal inheritance, before she surrendered the same into the king's hands, who allowed her only a trifling maintenance until her death, in 1490. The manor of Olney was, however, part of that allowance, by grant from the king, in the fifth year of his reign, the same year in which the countess died. It was afterwards holden by the Crown, and Henry VIII., demised Olney mills in 1520, to certain tenants, on a lease of twenty-one years.

Edward VI. in the second year of his reign, granted this manor to his sister, the Princess Mary, for life, describing it as parcel of the possessions of Richard late Earl of Warwick, attained.

In the reign of James I. it was settled upon the queen, as part of her dowry, and afterwards demised, for ninety-nine years, to certain citizens of London.

Charles II. granted to Edward Dythfield, Francis Morse, and Humphry Clark, upon trust for the lord mayor and aldermen of London (who had lent money to the king, and King James), the manor of Olney, with rents of the free tenants, etc., being parcel of the lands belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, in fee, on payment of £58/17/2 annually. Through this grant, in or about the year 1638, the manor came into the possession of Richard Nicholl, a Turkey merchant, of London, who held it in 1660.

William Nicholl, his son, is presumed to have afterwards holden it, as it is certain that it was in the hands of his son, Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K.B., at the time of his death, in 1733.

Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, dying without male issue, this manor passed with his estate at Bradwell, and became vested in William Earl of Dartmouth, in right of his marriage with Frances Katherine, only surviving child of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, in January 1755.

In 1767, an Act of Parliament was passed for dividing and inclosing the open and common fields, and commonable lands, within the parish of Olney, in which it is recited, that William



DARTMOUTH
COAT OF ARMS.

Earl of Dartmouth, in his own right, and in right of Francis Katherine Countess of Dartmouth, his wife; is Lord of the Manors of Olney and Warmington, otherwise Warrington, in the said parish.

Ecclesiastical History.

The advowson was always appendant to the Manor until the reign of Henry VIII., for although in 1481, a fine had been levied between the Dean and the Cannons of Windsor, querents, and Richard Duke of Gloucester, and Anne his Duchess, deforcients, of the rectory of Olney which was then in the hands of the King. That grant was soon set aside, or perhaps never took effect.

Henry VII., in 1504, reciting his grant to the Abbess, and Convent of Sion, dated 16 July 1502, of the Advowson of Olney and Great Marlow, and Olney Park, with the Advowsons and Patronage of the Churches.

Olney Park had been enclosed by Ralph Lord Bassett of Drayton, by licence of King Edward III., to impark 300 acres of land in Olney, in 1374, in which parish he had enjoyed free warren; as also in Hordmead, by Charter in 4 Edward III.

Philip and Queen Mary, by patent, in 1558, in consideration of £7,000 granted to Thomas Watson, Bishop of Lincoln, *inter alia*, the patronage and advowson of the Church of Olney, to himself and his successors; but Elizabeth having succeeded to the Crown, set aside this grant; and conveyed, by Patent the said rectory, to George and Jane Incent Castle, for their lives; but on the surrender of this lease, a few years afterwards, the same was renewed to the aforesaid George and Jane Incent Castle, and Elizabeth Beswick, for the like term, they paying £30/13/8 per annum, and 8/- for a heriot.

In 1606, James I., granted to Sir John Ramsey, Knight, *inter alia*, the rectory of Olney, late belonging to Sion Monastery; and the latter sold all his rights and interests therein to Robert Gorges, afterwards Sir Robert Gorges, Knight, of Redlinch, in Somerset, who thereupon endowed the vicarage with £46/13/4 per annum, thus augmenting it to £60 per annum.



OLNEY VICARAGE.

In 1608, James I., by Patent, demised to Sir Henry Guilford, and Elizabeth his wife, the rectory of Olney, from Lady-day then past; for fifty years, if no lease is in being, at £30/13/8 per annum, and £13/6/8 to the vicar of Olney; for synodals, 10/8 per annum; to the Bishop of Lincoln, 26/8 per annum, &c.; and if a lease be, then for fifty years from the end thereof.

In 1642, Sir Robert Gorges conveyed the rectorial tithes and the advowson of the vicarage to William Johnson, of Milton Briant, in Northamptonshire; who, coming to reside here, rebuilt the greater part of the parsonage house, which had been the ancient residence of the

rectors, and died in 1669, aged eighty years. The advowson afterwards passed to another William Johnson, who was the Impropiator and owner in 1732. He was succeeded in his possession here by his son, the Rev. Wolsey Johnson; who, having a good estate in Lincolnshire built a house there, to which he was about to remove with his family, when he died, in 1755, leaving a widow and family.

The remains of the Rev. Wolsey Johnson were carried into Lincolnshire for interment, and his family removed thither from Olney; but his widow, who survived him until 1759, about a year or two after he had vacated his vicarage here in favour of his successor, had great disputes and squabbles with the latter, notwithstanding he had obtained the benefice principally through her recommendation and patronage.

Since the generous augmentation of the living by Sir Robert Gorges, several additions have been likewise made to this vicarage; as, in 1812, of £200 by a Parliamentary grant; and in 1818, by another of £300 to meet a donation of £200 made by the earl of Dartmouth, patron and impropiator. The vicarage has since received another augmentation of £17 per annum granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Rectors.

RICHARD DE KENET died rector in 1263; and was succeeded by NICOLAS DE BAGINDEN, presented in 1263, by Lady Isabella de Albini, Countess of Arundel, in right of her dowry in the Manor of Olney.

HUGH died in 1303; and was succeeded by

RICHARD CRUMWELL, 8 March 1303, on the presentation of Ralph Lord Basset, of Drayton. He died in 1318; and was succeeded by

THOMAS DE RADCLIVE, instituted 1 December 1318, on the presentation of Sir Ralph Basset, Knight, Lord of Drayton. He died, and

JOHN DE BUCKINGHAM, Presbyter was instituted 12 December 1348, on the same presentation. He was afterwards Bishop of Lincoln.

ROGER DE NEWCROFT succeeded in 1350. He was Archdeacon of Northampton; resigned in 1351; and

WILLIAM MARESCHALL was instituted 3 February 1351, on the presentation of Sir Ralph Basset, Knight, of Drayton.

WILLIAM DE NAVESBY resigned in 1364, in exchange for Bosworth Rectory. He was Archdeacon of Chester; and was succeeded by

ADAM DE NAVESBY, presented 1 June 1364, by Sir Ralph Basset, Lord of Olney. At his decease,

JOHN GRANT DE TURVEY was instituted 18 June 1389, on the presentation of Lord Ralph Basset, of Drayton. He died; and

THOMAS ALDEBURY was presented 1 March 1407, by the Feoffees of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. He exchanged it for Hanslope, in 1415, with

JOHN BAYSHAM, who died in 1434. He was also Canon of Hereford, and Prebendary of Lincoln.

NICHOLAS WYMBYSCH, presented 20 June 1434, by Richard Earl of Warwick and Albermarle. He died in 1460, Canon of York and Archdeacon of Notts. On his cession,

WILLIAM CHAMBERS was presented by the same Patron, 26 November 1455. He resigned; and

VINCENT CLEMENT, S.T.P., was presented 21 January 1458 by Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick. He died; and

THOMAS BARROW, L.L.B., was instituted 15 March 1574, on the presentation of Richard Duke of Gloucester. On his cession,

JOHN TOLOFT or TOLOT, was instituted 29 August 1488, on the presentation of the Countess of Warwick. At his death,

HENRY AINSWORTH, L.L.D., was presented 21 January, 1492 by Henry VII. He seems to have quitted this rectory to have it appropriated in 1504.

Vicars.

WILLIAM WAREYN was presented by the Abbess and Convent of Sion, 21 August 1504, being erected to a vicarage in the same year, and endowed with twenty marks. At his death,

JOHN THRELKELD was presented 22 June 1521, on the presentation of Sion Convent. On his cession,

NICHOLAS WHYTINTON was instituted 5 February 1535, on the same presentation.

ROBERT SALISBURY succeeded about 1541. He was Prebendary of Rochester; and died there in 1544.

THOMAS ROBERTS was presented 18 June 1547, by the King, and died in 1577.

MARTIN PURVIER, B.D., was instituted 5 December 1578, on the presentation of Queen Elizabeth. At his death,

GRIFFIN LEWIS, M.A., was presented 23 March 1603, by James I. He was buried here 13 April 1611.

WILLIAM DORMER succeeded.

WILLIAM WORCESTER succeeded in 1624, by the recommendation of Sir Robert Gorges. He resigned; and

RICHARD GIFFARD was instituted 10 May 1638, on the presentation of Sir Robert Gorges, Knight, of Redlinch, in Somerset, but was displaced.

ROBERT WALWIN occurs vicar in 1640.

NATHANIEL JENNY occurs in 1658; he died in 1668.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, S.T.P., presented 17 November 1668, by Thomas Johnson. He was a native of Olney; afterwards rector of St Pauls, Covent Garden, Westminster; installed 21 September 1691, Dean of Peterborough; and having resigned this living, died 14 October 1707, aged 63. He was succeeded by

JOHN NEALE, 25 September 1671. On whose cession

GEORGE LESLEY, M.A., was presented 1 November 1687; and at his death was succeeded by

HENRY ELLIOT, M.A., who was presented by William Johnson, 17 August 1701. He quitted it for Haversham, where he was buried. On his cession

HENRY KELLY was instituted 30 July 1718. He died in 1735.

WOLSEY JOHNSON, M.A., succeeded, being inducted 27 October 1735, on the presentation of his father, William Johnson; but resigned in 1753.

MOSES BROWN, presented by Wolsey Johnson, on the cession of himself, and inducted 28 June 1753. His arms were; S. three lions passant in bend between two bendlets arg. A detailed account of this man's life written by a contemporary, has unfortunately not been handed down to us. Such a narrative would have possessed special interest; for though his career was somewhat uneventful, he was brought in contact with many of the leading literary characters of his time. Our materials for his biography are of the scantiest. His sayings and doings are not recorded in the sympathetic pages of a friend. We meet with a reference to him here, a notice of him there; while the one or two brief surveys which we possess of his pilgrimage of eighty-three years are comprised in about that number of lines. He was born in 1704, and of his youth little is known beyond the fact that he manifested a weakness for versifying. His earliest occupation was that of a pen cutter. At the age of twenty he published a tragedy "Polidus," and a farce "All be-devilled" which were never performed in public, although they were honoured by a private representation in the private theatre of St. Albans' Street. He was an enthusiastic angler and took great interest in all matters relating to the *gentle* sport. In 1729 he published his "Piscatory Eclogues," dedicated to G. B. Doddington, afterwards Lord Melbourne. These were reprinted in 1739, amongst "Poems on various subjects," and again in 1773, in an extended form, with notes. His earliest patron was Robert Viscount Molesworth; one of his best friends was Edmund Cave, the proprietor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. He offered four prizes for the best poems on a given subject, inviting the Universities and men of letters in general to take part in the compe-

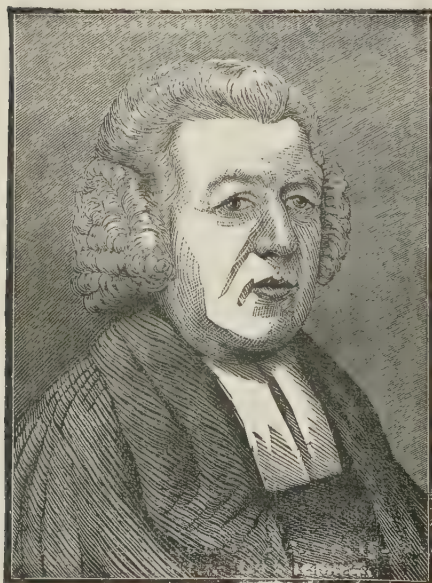
tion. Browne entered and was fortunate enough to take the first prize of £50. From this time he became the chief contributor to the magazine, and in subsequent competitions was generally successful. His pieces were regarded with much favour by the public, and he was looked upon as a man of "some ability," one of his admirers addressing him in a poem commencing

"O thou! by genius and by birth allied,
O more esteemed than all mankind beside."

Though "more esteemed than all mankind beside," he remained in comparative poverty. To a man who is entirely dependent on what he earns, empty fame is as tinkling brass; and so Browne found it. He experienced great difficulty in satisfying the requirements of a wife and seven children, which he appears to have had in 1745, when he applied to Doctor Birch, the secretary for the Royal Society, for the post of messenger or door keeper. In 1749, he was requested by the Duke and Duchess of Somerset to write a poem on "Percy Lodge," one of their country seats. This was published in 1755, but as in the meantime the Duke and Duchess died, he lost the benefits which their patronage would have conferred. In 1750, he issued, at the suggestion of Doctor Johnson, an edition of Walton and Cotton's "Complete Angler" with a preface, notes and additions. Having hopes of preferment in the church, and encouraged by the Rev. James Hervey, the author of the "Meditations," he took orders in 1753. In 1763, he was presented with the chaplaincy of Morden College, Blackheath. He remained vicar of Olney, but became non-resident, and in the following year, on the recommendation of the Earl of Dartmouth,

JOHN NEWTON became the curate in charge, and took up his residence at the vicarage. This eminent divine was born in London, July 24, O.S., 1725, and educated for two years at Stratford, Essex. The son of a sailor who was a commander in the Mediterranean trade, he followed his father's avocation when only ten years of age, and soon afterwards became an avowed infidel, reckless and vicious. Receiving an invitation from the Catlets, distant relations of his, and in whose

house his own mother died on July 11, 1732—he availed himself of the opportunity afforded by his presence in Kent, and called upon them. It was then that he made the acquaintance of Mary, who afterwards became his wife. From her birth she had been regarded as his future companion on life's journey, both by her mother and by Mrs. Newton. He was pressed into the navy and by the influence of his father was put into a position to do well, had he not over-stayed his leave on one occasion and deserted on another when he was given the charge of a number of men. For the latter offence he was taken by a company of soldiers, returned to his ship and publicly flogged and degraded from his rank of midshipman. While in the navy his conscience began to smite him and he occasionally read his Bible, prayed, and fasted, but this did not last long. In commemoration of his deliverance after a mighty storm at sea, when about the age of

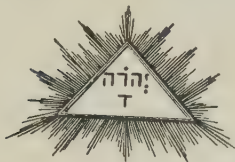


JOHN NEWTON.

twenty-four his stony heart was softened and he wrote

“ Begone unbelief, my Saviour is near,
And for my relief will surely appear ;
With prayer let me wrestle, and he will perform,
With Christ in the vessel I'll smile at the storm.”

After his degradation, the captain of the vessel transferred him to a merchantman bound for the west coast of Africa, where he experienced harsher treatment than he had received before, and of which he afterwards wrote, “ I have seen frequent cause since to admire the mercy of the Lord, in banishing me to those distant parts, and almost excluding me from human society, at a time when I was big with mischief, and like one affected with a pestilence, was capable of spreading a taint wherever I went.” After a perilous career, intermixed with great privations and adventures, he met a Christian captain who expounded to him the truths of the Gospel, which had the effect of making him a changed man ; and a severe illness attacking him he decided to leave the sea and return home, although the slave trade, in which he was engaged, was very remunerative. On arriving in England he acted as tide waiter for some time at Liverpool, and at the same time he applied himself to study for the church and being ordained by Dr. Green, bishop of Lincoln, was given the curacy of Olney in 1764, on an income of £60 per annum, where he resided for 15 years, and attracted so large a congregation that it was necessary to erect a gallery in the church for the increasing numbers.



Through his influence came William Cowper to reside at Orchard Side, and they unaided composed the splendid collection of sacred songs known as “ The Olney Hymns.” Cowper falling ill the largest share of composition fell to Newton, who wrote, “ I have observed one or two of them attributed to persons who certainly had no concern in them, but as transcribers. The public may be assured, that the whole number were by two persons only. The original design would not admit of any other association.” Soon after the completion of these hymns he accepted the living of St. Mary Woolnoth, in 1779. His death taking place in 1807, his mortal remains were placed in a vault in the church of St. Mary, with the remains of his wife who had died in 1790, where they remained unmolested till January 1893. During the clearing out of the coffins from the crypt of St. Mary Woolnoth church, for re-interment at Ilford cemetery, in the early part of 1893, those containing the remains of John Newton and his wife were discovered. A subscription was at once started towards the re-interment of the remains at Olney, which ceremony took place 25 January 1893, in the grave that had received George Catlett, the father of Mrs. Newton, who died while on a visit in 1777. The old oak coffins having completely rotted away the leaden ones were cased in handsome polished oak ones before their departure from London. The original plates were fixed to the new coffins. Newton's plate contained the following inscription, surmounted by a triangle, as above illustrated, surrounded with a glory and enclosing the Hebrew characters for Jehovah : The Revd. John Newton, rector of this church, died 21st Decr, 1807, in the 83 year of his age. At the foot of the plate was a small brass with the following wording : Removed from St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, to Olney churchyard, January 1893. Later on the grave was again opened, to allow the old breast-plate to be taken off, so that it could be placed up in the church. The massive granite monument was then placed over the grave, in memory of this renowned divine.

JAMES BEAN was presented 5 December 1787, by the Right Hon. William Earl of Dartmouth. He resigned ; and

MELVILLE HORNE was presented 31 May 1769, by the same patron. He resigned ; and CHRISTOPHER STEPENSON, B.A., was presented 8 July 1799, by the same patron. He died ; and

HENRY GAUNTLETT was presented March 1815, by the same patron. He died in 1834 ; and was succeeded by

DANIEL BAXTER LANGLEY, D.C.L., inducted 27 April 1834, on the presentation of the Earl of Dartmouth. He resigned and was succeeded by his son, JOHN PIERCY LANGLEY, in 1856, on the presentation of Lord Dartmouth.

The Church.

The Church is supposed to have been built during the years 1325 to 1350 and the foundation stone laid in Lordship close, west of the present site. This venerable structure was a beautiful building, but the alterations of the last century have destroyed much of its beauty, at least in the interior. It is in the Early Decorated or Middle Pointed style of architecture, and it comprises a nave, aisles, chancel, north porch, and tower with spire rising to a height of one hundred and eighty feet. The internal measurements of the edifice are, length, one hundred and fifty feet, including the chancel of fifty one feet, the nave seventy-six feet and a half, and the tower twenty-five feet and a half. The breadth of the chancel twenty-two feet and a half, nave with aisles, fifty-eight feet and a half, and the tower eighteen feet. The nave is separated from



the aisles by arcades of five arches on either side, and had originally a fine roof and a small clerestory. The parts that have been rebuilt are, the south aisle, by Warren in 1831; and a great part of the north aisle in 1807. At this time the north porch was erected. In Storer's "Notes on Olney," he observes that "so closely and in so many points does this church resemble that of Emberton, the tower excepted, that I think there is much reason to ascribe them both to the same masterly designer—one of those great nameless architects of old, whose works, marred,

disfigured, mutilated though they be, by plaster ceilings, hideous pews, cumbrous galleries, and abominable stove and gas pipes, still bear traces of an unearthly beauty which the grovelling and mercenary utilitarian builder of the present day can neither see nor imitate." The portion of the church which first strikes the eye of an observer is the massive graduated tower, with its noble and sixteen-lighted spire. The pinnacles are somewhat stunted in their form; the result of unskilful restoration. Viewed during a fine sunset from Clifton Hill the spire with its numerous openings presents an appearance not soon to be forgotten as it is a conspicuous object in the landscape. A curious feature is the bulging of its sides, technically called *entasis*. The tower has a fine west doorway and a very good two-light coloured window with the figures of SS. Peter and Paul, the gift of Mrs. Welton, and supplied by Claton and Bell, in 1873; and a graceful octagonal spire rising from a good cornice of masks and flowers with small octagonal pinnacles at the angles; there are four small spire-lights with canopied heads on the north, south, east, and west sides each being surmounted by a cross. During

the year 1884, it was found necessary to rebuild about fifteen feet of the spire, owing to damage occasioned during a severe storm when it was struck by lightning. The repairs were executed under the superintendence of a Mr. Parker of Oldam. The weather-cock was found to be minus the Maltese cross, and there was a bullet hole through the tail. On the tail were engraved "H. Gauntlett, vicar," the initials of the churchwardens—Benjamin Coles, William Lord, and John Herring, who was the last of the Warrington churchwardens—and the words

I never crow, but stand to show
Whence winds do blow, 1829.

The repairs were completed on the 24th of November, but not before the weather-cock, which is two feet nine inches from the beak to the tip of the tail and two feet high, was regilded and further inscribed as follows; J. P. Langley vicar, John Garrard, Thos. T. Coles, churchwardens, 1884. The largest stone used was about fourteen hundred weight.

The harmonious peal of six bells is considered to be the finest for many miles round, the largest or tenor bell weighing twenty-eight hundredweight. The inscriptions cast on them are

First: GOD SAVE THE KING. HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE. There are nine five-shilling pieces of Charles II. upon this bell.

Second: GOD SAAE THE qAEEENE 1532.

Third: THOMAS MARTIN RICHARD PHEASANT CHVRCHWARDENS
HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1699.

Fourth: ROBERT ATTON OF BUCKINGHAM MADE MEE 1631.

Fifth: IOHN MARKES AND THOMAS OSBORNE CHVRCHWARDENS
THOMAS RVSELL OF WOOTTON MADE MEE 1733. On this bell are ten shillings of George I.

Sixth: MATHEW PYE ARTHVR BVCK CHARCHWARDENS 1682. IN-
SIGNIA THOME IOHNSON ARM. There are crown pieces of Charles II. on this bell.

On the great bell before it was recast, was inscribed,

Ora pro nobis virgo Maria.

During the storm, above alluded to, the chimes that played every three hours were greatly affected, so much so, that they were discarded. The present clock was put in place of the old one in 1888, by Messrs. Leeson, of Birmingham, in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, at the cost of about £280; £100 being given by Lord Dartmouth. The aisles are embattled and a cornice to the chancel is rich in masks and flowers. There are some fine gargoyles. During repairs, about the year 1800, a beam was found inscribed "This beam was laid up by Ben Marriot and Michel Hinde, churchwardens, July 17, 1718, and 700 years from its first building (1018)." At this time another beam was placed with the inscription "By Cobb and Raban. This was put up April 2nd, 1800, and 782 years from the building. Wm. Hull and Thomas Harris, churchwardens." In 1807, the church underwent considerable repair. Part of the north wall, which exhibited a large

fracture, was rebuilt. The windows in this wall were then denuded of their tracery. The porch was built, and a schoolroom erected above it. To defray the cost of these repairs the lead that covered the building was removed and sold to a Birmingham dealer, tradition says to be made into bullets for the war that was raging at that time, and the beautiful oak roof was taken down and sold by auction in the churchyard. The timber was disposed of in lots. Some of the carved heads remain in the church as silent witnesses, as it were, of the barbarous destruction of the fine old roof to which they belonged. The clerestory windows were destroyed at the same time. The most remarkable feature in the ground plan of the church is that the chancel is not in a direct line with the nave, but inclines considerably to the north. This peculiarity, mystically referring to our Lord bowing down His head upon the cross, occurs in many churches; but the divergence is seldom so great as to be conspicuous. The aisles are lighted by nine windows, those on the south being good; those in the north aisle shams. There are three windows in each of the side walls of the chancel, and a large window in the east end. There was stained glass in the tracery of the east window. Lipscomb states that the windows formerly contained the arms of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and the Lords Basset of Drayton. This window is now of a stained glass, designed by Messrs. Holland, of Warwick and given by Mr. Thomas Revis, in the year 1870. The side windows in the chancel are the best in the church. The two western-most (lychnoscopes) are brought lower than the others, and crossed near the bottom by a plain transom. This feature has been thought by some to be symbolical of the piercing of the heart of Our Saviour at the time of the crucifixion. Others suppose them to have been confessionals; and it has been conjectured that they were constructed so as to afford a view of the altar to the Lepers. The inner doorway of the porch is very good. On each side of the nave is an arcade of five lofty arches, with clustered columns. There is a gallery on the north side, erected in 1765, by subscription of the parish in consequence of the increasing congregation. In 1723 a west gallery was erected bearing the following inscription: "Mathew Marryot, clerk and sexton of this church, built this gallery at his own proper cost and charge, 1723." This was removed in 1873. The tower arch which was blocked by the latter gallery and a small organ was thrown open and restored. The reading desk and pulpit are of carved oak, the font is modern and was the gift of the Rev. J. P. Langley in commemoration of Victoria's diamond jubilee; and the pews are of moderate height. The chancel arch is very spacious. The four seats of the sedilia gradually rise eastward, and are separated by circular shafts. In the north wall is an ambry; and in the lower part of the wall is the Easter sepulchre, beneath a low arch. The most conspicuous adornment is the new reredos, erected by Mr. Archibald Allen and Mr. J. A. Illiffe to the memory of their uncles John and William Garrard. The work was entrusted to Jones & Willis, of London, who fabricated out of Caën stone and various coloured English marble, a neat though handsome addition to the fine chancel. The brass plate referring to

the memorial, reads :

To the glory of God. This reredos is placed in affectionate memory of John Garrard, born January 19th, 1804, died March 2nd, 1896, aged 92 years, and of his brother William Garrard, born December 15th, 1805, died September 6th, 1896, aged 90 years. Both were born and died in this parish, and are interred in this churchyard.

There are memorials to members of the families of Neale, Johnson, Mason, Gaynes, Browne, Sheffard, Grindon, Osborne, and Treechuite.

On a mural monument, on the north side of the chancel, are these arms, on a lozenge :

A pile, charged with three bears' heads, erased with the following inscription :

Hic jacet Catherina, filia perdilecta Thomæ Iohnson, argr et annæ uxoris ejus quae obit vicesimo Septimo die Augusti, Anno Dom. 1680.
Ætatisque Suæ decimo.

Stay Reader, stay, lett mee bespake you eye,
To take a view who here intomb'd doth lye;
'Tis worth your while for things of excellent worth,
Hir tender years beyond hir years brought forth;
Takit in a word within this narrow roome,
Great Beauty, wit, youth, duty, have a tombe;
Then stand & read thy self within this Glasse,
How soon these perish, & thy selfe maist passe.

In the floor of the chancel, as also of the nave and aisle, are many sepulchral slabs, whence the inscriptions have been obliterated; and near the entrance of the north porch, is a large dark coloured slab, which appears to have formerly had brasses attached to it.

Le Neve has preserved the following monumental record in this church, no longer remaining.



THE THREAD OF LIFE STONE.

John Throckmorton, Gent. deceased the 29th Day of September Anno Dni, 1693 aged years 11 months.

Frances Throckmorton, widow, deceased the day of 1696, in the 69th year of her age.

There are many good head stones in the churchyard and curious epitaphs. The stones worthy of note are those to the memory of

George Gee whereon is a representation of Death, springing forward to sever the thread of life from the figure lying on a bed. To the left is to be observed a finely carved stone to the memory of Charles Morgan. This represents a cherub bearing "The Book of Life" opened,

pointing to the name and age of deceased. Another curious stone, near the porch, is called "The farmyard" stone, from the fact of a farm scene being depicted on the head of it.

A chantry was founded in this church, by Ralph, the last Lord Basset of Drayton, whose will, made in January 1390, contained this passage, "I will that four chauntries be founded to pray for my soul for ever, in the following places: two at Bethlem without Bishopsgate, one in the Chapel of Our Lady in the churchyard at Olney, and one in the new Chapel built by me at Colston Basset in honour of St. Ivo, for which I give C.C." The belief that the Chapel of Our Lady stood detached from the church and in the south-west corner of the yard is not without grounds for in that position the foundations of a building are still to be traced a few feet from the surface. The chantry afterwards acquired the designation of the Earl of Warwick's chantry, unless, indeed, that was a separate foundation. Probably the earl was but a second founder, for we hear no more of Lord Basset's chantry, and only one chantry priest is named in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Henry VIII.

The parish registers contain the following entries:

- 1516. Sir Thomas Digby, Knt., willed to be buried before the image of the Trinity, in St. Peter and St. Paul's church here.
- 1520. Richard Cook alias Squire gave towards a pair of Organs here, six pounds, six shillings, and eightpence.
- 1524. John Pain willed a legacy to Our Lady's Chapel here.
- 1534. Thomas Launder gave six pounds, thirteen shillings, and fourpence towards embattling the south aisle of Olney church.
- 1535. Sir John Threlkeld, vicar of Olney, willed to be buried in Clifton chancel, and gave ten shillings to the Abbot of Lavendon, two books of parchment, a candlestick, two altar cloths, and two towels to the church; and a legacy to St. Christopher's and St. George's fraternity here.
- 1545. Thomas Lawe of Olney, Esquire, gave to his executors, for the use of his wife, the farm which he held of the King's Majesty of the manor of Olney.
- In 1611, four shillings were paid to the ringers, when the Queen came through the town; William Dormer being vicar, that a great sickness then prevailed.
- 1672. Christopher Ladamore found in y^e water betwene Olney & Clifton, 19 April.
- 1673. William Alliston a man genrally reputed to be of y^e age of 96 yeers was married to Alice Holmes on Michlms. day 1673.

The Civil War Tracts connected with Olney.

During the war between Charles I., and his Parliament, a strong detachment of the army of the Parliament was stationed at Olney under the command of Colonel Harvey, and a skirmish took place here between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, the former commanded by Prince Rupert.

Two of the "Civil War Tracts" preserved in the British Museum on this historical event are as follows:

"A Letter from Colonel Harvey, to his Excellency Robert Earle of Essex.

Right Excellent,

The Kings Forces to be avenged on us, for our falling into their Quarters on Thursday last, came on Saturday morning with seven or eight Regiments of their Horse, foure hundred Dragoneers, and two hundred commanded Musqueteers, mounted behind the Trowpers, this party commanded by Prince Rupert, about seven in the morning fell upon our Quarters, our Scouts gave us the Alarum somewhat too late, nor above a quarter of an houre before their body appeared within Musquet shot of

Townes end, and they assured us that they had well viewed their whole party, and that it could not be more than five hundred, which imboldned me to draw forth our Troope into the Field, but no sooner had we drawne out, but their grosse appeared, at which time but eight Troopes were marched out of the Towne, but not drawn up, the Enemy came down the hill amaine to charge us, to prevent our embattelling, the want of which, with the sight of their great body, occasioned ours to retreat too fast, and disorderly into the Towne, and some much farther. The Enemy entered the Towne, and upon their first falling in, we beate them out again with a very small number, but they sent a fresh and greater supplie, and forced us to retreat over the Bridge, at the end of which, we drew up all we could prevail with to stand, which was about two hundred, and the Enemy also came over the Bridge, and drew up in the same Meadow, but with forty Horse or there about, I charged those then there drawne up in number about sixty, and they most hastily retreated over the Bridge, we pursuing them, where many of them were wounded, slain, and tumbled over the Bridge, but with their Musqueteers they beate us backe again, to the end of the Bridge next Newport. This done, we againe marched over the Bridge with fiftie Horse, and in despite of them entered into the Towne, and cleared it, and drew out into the Field, and faced them. In great haste and fear (as those we tooke after confessed), they marched away, and some of those beaten out of the Towne (as some of Towcester assured us) ran thither and told the rest that the Roundheads had cut them all off, which gave them a hot Alarum, so that thence they sent three hundred Musqueteers to their relief, and the better to make good their retreat. There were found dead upon the place 19 persons of theirs and ours, and twenty of theirs were dressed two miles beyond *Oulny*, and the Lieutenant, to the Earle of Downe, with one other there by us taken Prisoner who stayed behind; We took also a Cornet of theirs Prisoner, whose name as I remember is Gatton, one of your Excellencies Life-guard, and six others, three persons of quality of theirs (by their habite slaine) one reported to be a Major, another a Captain of Horse, whose bodies they in our sight carried away; they took eight or nine of ours prisoners, the revenge I hope they will not brag of, we lost about forty Horses and tooke theirs more, we saved our own Collours, and tooke none of theirs. My Lord be pleased to excuse me for delaying as to give your Honour a speedy account as was my duty, which I omitted, save only, I sent my Capitaine Lieutenant to do it verbally that so in writing I might set it forth more certainly, then at that time I could, which is all I dare present (save onely) that from the Committee at Northampton yesterday, I received advertisement, which instantly I sent to the Major Generall, that four other Regiments of Horse the night before were come from Oxford to Prine. Rupert, and more Foote to march up unto him: when this party was abroad they left a guard of Horse and Foot, with their Ordinance in Towcester, which was before those foure Regiments, came up, so that it's apparent they have a great party, and they give it out they will have Newport againe whatever it cost them. With pardon for my boldnesse in presenting these unto your Excellency,

I remain, my Lord, your most humble Servant,

Oulny, Novemb. 6, 1643.

EDMUND HARVEY."

From the above interesting letter it will be seen at that date this town was in the possession of the Parliamentarians under command of Colonel Harvey, an officer of indomitable pluck who together with his troops, first brings Olney bridge * into historic notice. The colonel having beaten a retreat to the bridge this structure served as a vantage ground to the contesting forces during this exciting engagement.

"The happy Success of the Parliaments Army, at Newport and other places.

That you may be mindfull to send me the Printed newes I wil as oft as I can acquaint you with what is materiall that I know to be truth, for we have too many Lyes abroad in this licentious age: Nothing remarkable hath passed betweene the two armies in Northamptonshire untill Thursday November 2, when betimes in the morning by order from Major Generall Skipton, the Horse forces in Northampton, or rather some troops of them were drawne forth, to fall on the enemies Quarter that lay most

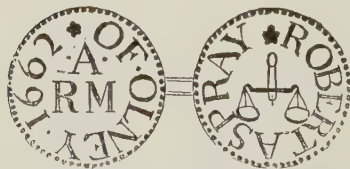
* The bridge was built in 1619 and stood till 1832.

remote to the North, while 3 Regiments of his Horse, viz., Colonell Middleton's Regiment, Colonell Turners were sent out to fall on the South East part of their Quarters, for the Kings Army lyes quartered at least 10 miles in distance one from another, the Northampton Forces hapned on the Lord of Northampton's Regiment about Stowes 6 miles from the Towne, set on them by breake of day, and slew 3. or 4. of them, and took 14 prisoners all horsemen, one a Coronet to the Earle of Northampton, & lost not one of their own; the London Regiments assaulted them at the same houre, they slew 15 on the ground, took 22 prisoners, and many horses which were left behind, the riders shifting for themselves better on foot into Greaston* Park and other hedges so that a horse-Fayre was kept at Newport that day, and horses sold good cheap for ready money, we lost but one man in this service. The Enemy to revenge this, did march all Friday night, and on Saturday morning, Novemb. 4. did set on our Quarters at Oulny, we first took 2. of their Scouts, by which we perceived the approach of our danger for their body of horse, a very strong one too fell into the Towne upon us, and charged us resolutely, and were received as stoutly by our men, until we could orderly retreat to the Bridge, which with ease we made good against them, intending to keepe them in play until our body came up to us from Newport 3 miles off, but they had no list to stay as long but some few faced us at the Bridge, whilst the rest retreated back and by the way some of them were met by the Northampton forces, who hearing they were gone towards our quarters sent out 7 or 8 troops of horse and about 500 foot they took of the enemy a Capt. of a Troop of horse, one Cap. Geerye a Huntingtongshire man and a great malignant, his cornet, but not his colours (they have the trick to pull them of & throw the staff one way & the Colours an other) they tooke also his trumpet & 9 other troopers which are all Prisoners in the towne.

POST SCRIPT.

The Enemy falling on our Quarters, at Oulny, had a purpose to have charged resolutely through the Towne, and bin Mrs. of the Bridge, but our Musketers were before them, & saluted them with two volley of shot which drove them back, and by this time Colonell Harvey, had drawne an indifferent body of Horse together, who came bravely on the enemy, but were by the great numbers driven backe, wee slew of them on the place, about 8 or 9 and they slew 5 of ours many wounded on both sides; It became a very hot incounter for the time not exceeding halfe an houre, they got into the Towne, and in their lodgings took two Foot Colours, and two Drums, wee slew of theirs besides the other a Captain of a Troope of Horse, and tooke his cornet desperately wounded, cannot live if he be not dead; They took of ours 15 Foot-men, & we twelve Horse-men of theirs, the losse was some-thing equall, & there was much mercy in it, that they were stopped before they came to the Bridge, for had they bin Mrs. of it, they had divided us from our Army at Newport as they did, a Troope of our Regiment that lay in the village and could not come at us, but were constrained to get to Northampton forces have taken and slain neer 100 of others this weeke with the losse of 6 men, and 15 Prisoners, no Officers as I can hereof; The Enemy retreated to Towcester, where they are with the greatest body, they have both horse and foot, if more company comes down we shal give them another visit I hope, for we have good encouragement to action. God not being wanting to our weake endeavours, but hath followed us with his Blessings, the continuation whereof is the Prayer of Yours, &c.

FINIS."

XVIIth Century Tokens.

Besides the many Roman and early English coins found in Ash Furlong there are Nuremberg counters and XVIIth Century tokens. The finding of the Roman coins may be easily accounted for as the field is the site of a Roman station and still bears traces of

one of their roads leading in the direction of Lavendon. Why those

* This probably means Weston Park as there is no other.

of later date are found in such quantities no reason has as yet been discovered.

The issuers of the town and the hamlet of Warrington were John Amps, Robert Aspray, James Brierly, Moses Freeman, John Gaynes, Joseph Scrivener, and Thomas Norris of Warrington. Both Aspray and Gaynes were the issuers of two varieties though of slight difference. Neither Scrivener's nor Norris's name appears in the church registers, so probably their stay in the town was but of short duration. The reference in the record of the other progressive tradesmen of the town are as appended.

Of the Amps' family there are but six entries. They may have removed to Emberton, as from this date the name is of frequent occurrence in the registers of that parish.

Elizabeth Amps, daught of John, April 16, 1676 (buried).

John Amps and Mary Coldwell, August 7, 1679 (married).

William Amps, May 10, 1704 (buried).

William Amps, June 11, 1704 (buried).

Russell Amps, son of Mary, October 31, 1705, buried.

Rose Amps, spins., February 28, 1719 (buried).

The sparse entries in connection with the Asprays gave no clue to what had become of the family. The late respected Mrs. Welton, who was looked upon as an authority, considered the family was only represented by a gentleman belonging to the medical profession in London. This surmise was entirely wrong, as the churchwarden's accounts for the adjoining parish of Clifton Reynes, not only give the token issuer but apparently the family down to our present townsman who follows the calling of a tailor instead of that of a cordwainer. The three entries in the ancient registers are

Thomas Aspray and Elizabeth Ashby, August 8, 1683 (married).

Mary Aspray, widow, February 1720 (buried).

Joseph Aspray, August 21, 1723 (buried).

The following are the extracts from the accounts :

1663-67. To Robert Aspray in part for Belropes	0 18 4
To Robert Aspray for bel-ropes when he destrained	0 10 8
1675-77. p ^d to Rob ^t Aspray for nailes used about the Bells and seates	0 04 6
1705. Nov. 20. To Samuel Aspray for shooting and lineing a Bell-Rope	0 01 6
1707. To Samuel Aspray for Belropes	0 9 0
1708. Paid to Samuel Aspray for shooting a Bell-Rope	0 0 8
1709. Paid to Samuel Aspray for shooting a new Piece to the Great Bell Rope	0 1 6
1710. To Widow Aspray on her Bill for 3 new Bell Ropes weighed 17 pounds at 6 ^d per Pound	0 8 6
1713. To Samuel Aspray for a Belrope 6½ pounds	0 3 3
1716. To W ^m Aspray for 3 new Belropes and Shooting one	0 9 0
1723. To Goodman Aspray for 3 new Bell-Ropes weight 19 pounds at 6 ^d per pound 9 ^s 6 ^d and for 2 shoots 4 ^d	0 9 10
to W ^m Aspray for a new Bell Rope w ^t 5 pounds	2 6

There are only the following entries of the Brierlys, and they have entirely left the neighbourhood, but for what locality is not known :

Thomas Brierly buried 26 September, 1669.

John Brierly, May 11, 1676 (buried).

Ann Brierly, 17 years old and a halfe

Percy Brierly, 9 years old and a halfe

} September 21, 1682 (baptised).

There appear to have been four families of the Freemans according to the entries in the church registers—John, Moses, Peter, and Thomas—and probably they were brothers, for there is an entry of the baptism of Moses Freeman, son of Thomas, April 2, 1676, which child was probably named after its uncle, the issuer of the token. Like the Aspray family there still remain descendants in the town, engaged in the shoe work.

James freeman, son of Moses, October 17, 1672 (buried).

Miream freeman, daughter of Moses, November 26, 1672 (baptised).

Moses freeman, Householder, November 8, 1673 (buried).

The only entries of the Gaynes are

John Goynes sonne of John, 8 August 1669 (buried).

Sarah Geynes wife of John, June 20, 1671 (buried).

Sarah Geynes daugh. of John, January 17 1684 (buried).

Mr. John Gaynes, December 24, 1704 (buried).

M^{rs} frances Gayns widow December 18, 1717 (buried).

Eminent Men of the Town.



WILLIAM COWPER.

Olney became better known through having been, for several years, the residence of the favourite Poet Cowper. He was one of those "gifted sons of genius" whose writings will be long held in deserved estimation. The house which he occupied here for nearly twenty years is situated on the south side of the Market Place. In a small rustic building or summer-house, at the end of the garden, Cowper was in the habit of spending his leisure hours, and here several of his popular Poems, and most of his epistolary correspondence, were written.

"O bless'd seclusion from a jarring world,
Which he thus occupied, enjoys."

Other notable characters that this, to use Thomas Wright's phrase, "Town of Cowper" may be proud of are Newton, the divine; Scott, the commentator; Carey the missionary; Sutcliff, the trainer for foreign missions; Gauntlett, the accomplished musician; and one of our own time, Thomas Wright.

Thomas Wright, who is the author of the standard work on the life of William Cowper, *Lives of Daniel Defoe and Charles Dickens*, and many other interesting volumes, is a native of Olney.



THOS. WRIGHT.

He was born in 1859; was educated at Buxton College, Forest Gate, Essex, and what leisure time he had he spent in further study in the library of the British Museum. From Buxton College he returned to Olney and opened a middle-class school, designated after his favourite poet, Cowper. At the commencement of his literary pursuits he met with great encouragement from many influential gentlemen, both of letters and title, who have continued to take great interest in him and his works, which are historical, humorous, and poetical. The following adaptation of Dryden's epigram appeared shortly after the publication of Mr. Wright's volume of poems "The Acid Sisters," founded on the history of the inmates of the ancient hall of Clifton Reynes.

Two poets in two distant periods born
The quiet town of Olney did adorn:
The first in tenderness and wit surpassed,
A humorous fancy percolates the last,
If this you doubt procure his latest tome.
And read the lines "He brought them Something Home."

The Town.

The derivation of the name of this town is involved in obscurity. In Domesday Book it is written *Olnei*; in Camden's "Britannia" (1610), *Oulney*; and in the Civil War Tracts, *Oulny*.

The town is delightfully situated in a pleasant valley through which meanders the river Ouse, and is comprised of High Street, High Street South, East and West Streets, Weston Road, Lime Street, Spring Lane, Near Town, Silver End, Dartmouth Road, Beauchamp and Warwick Terraces, Midland Road, Cowper Street, Newton Street, and Floods, Morgans, Berrills, Cobbs, Swains, and Field's Courts.

The visitor who to-day approaches Olney either from Emberton or Weston has under his notice practically the identical object that greeted his predecessors half a century ago. Coming from Emberton he still finds the bridges "of wearisome but needful length" that span the river branches. The church, of course, the reader will be acquainted with elsewhere so we will make no stoppage here. Over-shadowing the

Lordship Close, that leads to the church is a corrugated iron-roofed building erected for the Salvation Army when they took the town by storm some ten years ago but now does service for a different religious sect, the Roman Catholics who have removed from Weston Underwood.

Architecturally nothing new meets the visitor's eye who enters the town from Weston with the exception of the fine residence, Gresham House. Old world indeed appears the Sun Inn with its modern wood and plaster front and thatched roof, in close propinquity to the fairer pile it helps to support. Arriving at the Market Place the first place sought is Cowper's House. There is nothing else of interest except the old elm under the shade of which lads in Cowper's time played with tops and marbles as do their descendants of to-day. The old tree bears its age



OLNEY IN 1800.

bravely though somewhat shorn of its glory by a storm in 1884 which blew a great portion to the ground. The High Street has during the last decade been subjected to a great improvement, the side walks have been paved with blue bricks in place of the monstrous pebbles. "Westlands" one of the very few really nice houses in the town stands at the commencement of High Street. It is an ancient stone house that has been considerably modernised and bears the date 1611. It is at the north end of the town where the hands of the modern builder are most apparent as this portion with its fine shoe factory is a recent addition, and considerably adds to the appearance of this once sleepy place.

The contrast between Olney of to-day and that of the past could not be greater. Imagine the High Street having on the west side of it a miniature river with its dilapidated banks propped up with wickerwork, over hanging willow trees, a wide causeway, and a miserably kept roadway, lined with stone-built and thatched cottages, with here and there a well-built house—the spacious triangular Market Place with

the hexagonal building known as the Round House (the parish lock-up) the Shiel Hall, and three large elm trees, and you may then form a good idea of Bygone Olney.

The rivulet was comprised of two streams, the larger one running from Yardley road (Townsend) and the smaller one from Spring lane, meeting opposite to where now stands the Cowper Memorial Church. Here they turned at right-angles under a high arch, which gave the name to that particular locality, and thence proceeded to the river.

No records have come down to us of the Hyde, Olney Courts, Olney Park, and the ancient Church. According to tradition, the Church stood at Townsend, or at the north end of the present town, this site being such as was generally chosen in bygone times. The tree that stands there is still known as the Church-yard Elm; but this is not the only evidence, for there is a spring known as Christian's Well, and further still several human skeletons and bones were discovered when the foundations of the present Feoffee Houses were laid.

Yardley road was formerly known as "White Cross Hill," probably from the cross of the ancient church that stood at Townsend.

The Hyde is a farm lying between the Warrington and Yardley roads, and from the number and variety of Roman antiquities, which from time to time have been discovered, it is believed to be one of the earliest known sites in the parish. Besides the finding of these relics, the Hyde possesses other interesting features in the shape of excavations near the top of the hill on which the house is situated. These hollows, forming three sides of a square—south, east, and west—are entirely paved with roughly hewn stones, many of which are considerably worn. The longest of these excavations is the one on the east, which extends to the brook that runs at the rear of the house. This stone work is undermined by a drain. The pavement abutting on the brook is about a yard wide while in other parts of the square it extends almost to four yards.

Proceeding south, on the right hand was a long stone-built, and thatched two-storied building, where now stand the three cottages bearing a tablet with the following engraved upon it, E.H. A.D. 1887, and being numbers 121, 123a, and 125a, High Street. This house bore substantial proof of being one of the most important houses of the town in the early part of the XVIIth Century, for the walls of a large room on the ground floor, evidently the banqueting room, were decorated in a most elaborate style, by a now unknown artist, with plaster work in bold relief. The designs were carefully executed, though they looked out of proportion, owing to the great number of coats of white-wash they had received from time to time. The principal design specifies at whose cost these interesting models were executed, and he was undoubtedly a "beef-eater" the subject being John Brunt on horse-back dressed as a beef-eater and with a broken leg as shown in the illustration which is one-sixteenth its real size. This was over the sideboard or dresser at the north-end of the room and the moulding round the bottom and sides finished off in the ceiling cornice. The largest work was one with the inscription "Charity" which undoubtedly gave rise to the popular title of these plasters as "Hope, Faith, and

Charity." This was inscribed over the head of the woman, who is holding a child on her left arm to the breast. On the left was a boy with a hockey stick in his hand, and on her right was a girl who seems to have picked an apple from the tree at her side and was in the act of flinging it at the boy. In the right-hand space there was a model of the Great House thus showing that it must have been enlarged instead of built, in 1642. A view of the church was also added, having a porch on the south side. The whole was a massive piece of ornamentation and was enclosed in a fine scroll, finished off with herons feeding their young, a peacock, and a pheasant. It occupied the whole of the wall above



the open fireplace at the south end of the room. Two, in oval surrounds by armour designs, occupied position on the walls. The subject 'Night,' of which the illustration is a sketch before renovations, is, as will be noticed a woman fully dressed, and sitting on the clouds with a crescent moon in her left

hand. "Day," a woman also on the clouds, draped in a very low dress, with a large bunch of well designed flowers in her left hand.



On this the sun, by its rays, is evidently attracting the butterflies and moths, and the bouquet, the bees, which are plentifully scattered over the foreground. This one is in the possession of the editor of this work. On the ceiling a fine figure of "Cupid" concludes the works of art that the said John Brunt left to commemorate his lengthened stay in Olney, during the year 1624.

Entering the Market Place, on the left is noticed the "Swan Inn," now number 6, High Street, afterwards immortalised by Cowper in his *Task*, as the destination of the post boy, with the letters for the town. On the same side and opposite 15, Market Place stood the Round House where unruly and law-breaking members of society were incarcerated, and whence those who had to pay the penalty of "the cart tail" marched to the High Arch and back. It was taken down about 1846 and re-erected for a short time on the ground in front of the present Board Schools. This building was not the only one on the Market Place, as will be seen by the engraving on page 64. The building standing on the right is the Shiel or old Town Hall. The upper room of this building was approached at the north end by a double flight of steps. Two bow windows gave light to this assembly room. At the south end was a smithy. This useful place, though small, was demolished about 1816. There are records of cottages standing between the Round House and the one now known as Cowper's House, which were of no great importance, and gave to this part of the town a very straggling appearance.



THE GREAT HOUSE.

Great House with its many gables and square mullioned windows peering at the rear of the chancel of the church. This house is said to have been built by W. Johnson impropiator of the great tithes, in 1642, but it would appear from the allegorical plasters before alluded to, that it was in existence in 1624, thus testifying to the fact that it

The elm trees, of which only one out of three remains, are supposed to have been planted to commemorate the union of the three kingdoms in the reign of James the First. Under this tree stood the stocks.

Passing on towards "Brigge Street" we reach Dagnel Lane, a narrow thoroughfare leading to Weston Underwood, with its ancient Dagnel House, an old mansion with three gables; we then come in view of the

must be the same mansion adjoining the church in which King Edward the Fourth was taken prisoner, and which Lord Lytton describes so vividly in his "Last of the Barons." After twenty-seven years residence in this house W. Johnson died, and it was occupied for several generations by his descendants who allowed it gradually to fall into decay, and like all the other interesting buildings, its place knows it no more. The only remains of this noble residence are the large pillars of the north entrance gates to the church yard. These were presented to the churchwardens and removed from the former position, which was about sixty yards nearer the mill. For several years this noble building, with its handsome and massive oak staircase, was used as a workhouse in addition to those in the Workhouse Yard, now known as Tory Row. In this instance the male inmates were clothed in coarse white flannel swallow-tailed coats, leather breeches, and dog-skin cap.

Another old-time structure, that of the Parish Cross, stood between the north-west corner of the church tower, and the wall dividing Lordship close. The last remaining portion of this was the base which remained till about 1800.

At the north end of the town, where the Lavendon and Warrington roads meet, a man named Marryot, a *felo de se*, who committed suicide at the Saracen's Head Inn, was buried in 1790. This spot is supposed to be the site on which stood the gallows. A short distance from here, along the Lavendon road, on the site known as Dropshort, stood the Pest House.

There were formerly, a National School, two Infant Schools, and a Lace School, the produce of which was sold for the benefit of the children, also a Sewing School; and a School for training female servants. The Sunday School contained about two hundred and fifty Children.

Olney is remarkable for the number of destructive fires that have taken place in the town. In 1786 a calamitous fire consumed 43 houses. Other conflagrations occurred on August 8, 1851; January 4, and April 8, 1853; March 23 and June 26, 1854.

Warrington had its church or ecclesiastical chapel. There are no remains to mark its site.

The Chapels.

The places of worship, other than the Parish Church, are the Cowper Memorial Congregation Church, the Sutcliff Baptist Chapel, and the Friends' Meeting House.

Standing a little back, on the east side of the High Street, is what may be considered an ornament of cheerful and substantial appearance to the town. This is no less than the Cowper Memorial Chapel, which was erected in 1879 through the untiring exertions of the Rev. George G. Horton, who will always be looked upon as a benefactor



to the town of Olney, by the great improvement he has made in its appearance through the erection of this noble edifice. When he took the pastorate of this congregation he felt convinced that unless the old white washed building was replaced by something of an attractive and becoming appearance, Congregationalism would not flourish here; so he undertook the arduous task of raising the necessary funds. He made a commencement and succeeded, and well too, the outcome being the purchase of the old cottages abutting the street, their site being nicely laid out as an approach to the main entrance. The building is of local stone, faced with Bath stone. The principal external features that meet the gaze of passers by are the double entrance doorways and the two traceried windows with a shaft between, supporting a figure of Cowper.

The Baptist Chapel, known recently by the name of Sutcliff's Chapel, is an old building, dating from 1694, and is approached by the narrow road leading to the Brewery. In 1763 it was enlarged, and having become greatly dilapidated it was thoroughly renovated in 1893, at a cost of fourteen hundred pounds. The plans were drawn by Mr. Charles Dorman and the work carried out by Mr. J. T. Wingrove, both of Northampton.

The Reverend John Sutcliff, M.A., who was so intimately connected with the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society, was pastor here for thirty-nine years; and his remains lie in the burial ground adjoining the chapel. William Carey, "the apostle of modern missions," was also intimately associated with it, having been received a member on his own profession, July the 14th, 1785.

In reference to this place of worship, the following, taken from *The Baptist Magazine*, for April 1822, gives a fair account of its past history. "January 19, 1694, the ground on which the place of worship now stands was conveyed by trustees for forty-five pounds. The declaration of trust recites 'that the said persons, and others of the like persuasion of the same sentiments with Mr. Gibbs, pastor of a church at Newport Pagnel, commonly called Independents, shall and may assemble together, at, in, or upon the said premises, at all such times as they shall think fit, for the exercise of their religion.' There is no document as to who were the pastors before 1741. A memorandum of Sept. 5, 1711, says, 'the meeting-place that Joseph Palmer now frequently preaches in.' On a stone in one of the aisles is inscribed 'John Castor, a minister, lies buried in this place: died 1720, aged 88.' November 15, 1738, certain persons named in the old church book were dismissed from the Baptist Church at Walgrave, under the care of Mr. Moses Deacon, who settled then as a Strict Baptist Church. Some time in the year 1741, Francis Walker was received by letter from Princes Risborough, and settled as pastor, November 14, that year. He died, aged 46, October 22nd, 1748. William Walker joined the Church, February 1749. He preached till Michaelmas, 1752, and from that time till Lady Day, 1753, preached at Newport, and then returned to Olney. At what time he was settled, I cannot tell, though probably that or the next year. After this the place was destitute till the summer of 1775, when Mr. John Sutcliff came, and was set apart to the pastoral

office the following summer. He continued his labours till June 1815. Our present pastor, Mr. J. Simmons, was settled in March 1818."

Thompson, in his manuscript, speaking of the Baptist Chapel says "Mr. Gibbs of Newport, bought a place at Olney, and preached there frequently till he had raised an interest. Sometime in Charles the Second's reign he gave his meeting to ye people there. Upon his death Mr. Morris settled as pastor there. He afterwards removed to Rowel and died there. He was an Independent, but ye congregation was mixed. On some occasion he removed from ye old meeting, and, with ye Independents, made a new meeting. The Baptists, though but few, continued to keep open ye old place, that is Mr. Gibbs' meeting. This was ye foundation of the Baptist interest at Oulney. The next pastor after Mr. Morris was Mr. Gibbons, of Haberdashers' Hall London. In Mr. Gibbons' time ye interest was considerable, but upon his removal to Royston it sunk almost to nothing, and there was no pastor for many year. After the year 1734, several serious Independents joined themselves to a little church at Yardley, Northamptonshire. Mr. Drake was pastor there. In ye year 1738, he began to preach once a day at Oulney and once at Yardley. He continued this for nineteen or twenty years, at which time, ye interest of Oulney being much ye largest, and the infirmities of old age rendering him incapable of riding backwards and forwards, he came wholly to Oulney, 1759, where he still resides. He said when he first came there both ye meetings were considerable, but are both now greatly reduced. This was first due to ye preaching of Mr. Browne, the vicar, which drew away many of ye meeting. Mr. Browne is now Chaplain at Maudlin College, Blackheath, but his successor in ye church seems to have given a mortal wound to ye Dissenting interest in this place. Mr. Newton's strain of preaching, indefatigable visiting, and many little artifices among ye poor and ye young people seems to carry almost everything before him. His preaching marks ye sincere disciple of Jesus."

A small building, known as the Friend's Meeting House is situated in Silver End. For many years this was used by the Quakers who lived in the neighbourhood. It is now used by a small religious body of another denomination.

Charities.

Ann Hopkins Smith, a benevolent member of the Society of Friends, built and endowed a range of Almshouses for twelve single women or widows above the age of forty. Each tenement consists of a sitting room and a bed chamber, and each inmate receives 5s. a week. An inscription on the almshouses states that they were erected in 1819. She also endowed the British School which adjoins these houses.

By his will, bearing date in 1626, Richard Peirson, of London, merchant-tailor, amongst other things bequeathed unto the town of Olney, towards the better relief, support, and maintenance of the poor people of the said town, £150. The accumulation of interest for several years together with a certain sum of money raised by the inhabitants of Olney—amounting on the whole to £203, was expended in the purchase

of property which now consists of two cottages and eight acres of land. The rents and profits are expended on the poor parishioners.

The Causeway estate consists of fourteen houses and cottages, and fourteen acres of land. When the Charity Commissioners made their last report the income of the first named charity was £46 1s. per annum, and that of the last mentioned was £65 17s. 6d. per annum. The latter sum is expended in repairing the highways.



COWPER'S SUMMER HOUSE, OLNEY.

WESTON UNDERWOOD



OCCUPIES a delightful position in an extremely beautiful part of Buckinghamshire, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north from Newport Pagnell, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west from Olney, and 9 miles north-east-by-east from Stony Stratford. It is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire, on the east by Olney, on the south by the river Ouse and Tyringham, and on west by Ra-

venstone. The area is 1,839 acres, and the population in 1891, was 325. The village consists principally of stone-built and thatched cottages, and is chiefly noted as a former home of one of England's most tuneful and patriotic poets—Cowper. It is in the Petty Sessional Division, County Court, Un-

nion, and Rural Deanery of Newport Pagnell; Archdeaconry of Buckingham; and the Diocese of Oxford.

Manorial History.

The lands of the Bishop of Constance in Weston, were holden as a manor, or seven hides and a half. There were seven carucates of land; in the demesne one hide; and one carucate and four villeins, with three bordars, had six carucates; and with them were seven socmen, and a certain *fleming*. There were three servants, seven carucates of pasture, wood for two hundred hogs. It was, and had been valued at 100/-; in the time of Edward, at £7. Ten thanes had holden this manor, the men of Burgaret, and could sell it. There was one man of Alric, who had three virgates, and could sell them.

The Earl of Morton's land in Weston was holden by Ivo, of the Earl, as one hide and two parts of a virgate. There was one carucate of land, and two oxen, with two bordars; a carucate of pasture; wood for twenty hogs; then, and always valued at 20/-. This land three thanes had formerly holden; of whom, two were men of Burgaret, who held three virgates, and two parts of another virgate; and a man of Alric Fitz-Goding, had one virgate, and could sell it,

The Countess Judith held an estate here, which Anschitill held of the Countess as three virgates. There was half a carucate, and four bovates

of pasture ; wood for twenty hogs ; valued, and so had formerly been, at 10/- ; and in the time of Edward, at 20/-. This land, Vluric, a man of Earl Waltheof, held, and could sell it.

Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance, appears to have been the principal possessor and chief Lord of Olney, if not of Weston ; but, being an Ecclesiastic, after his decease, both these manors seem to have reverted to the crown, and are presumed to have remained in the hands of the sovereign, until granted by Henry III. to the Earl of Arundel ; for the son of the Earl of Morton being attainted of high treason in 1103, his lands and earldom were bestowed upon Stephen of Blois, afterwards King of England.

The Countess Judith, who was niece of the Conqueror, and held a small estate here by the favour of the new sovereign, was matched, *as an affair of policy*, with a powerful nobleman, and given in marriage to Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland, Northampton and Huntingdon ; and it seems probable that his ancestors had enjoyed a long possession of this estate (there being no fewer than twelve Earls of Northumberland, of the same name and family, in linear succession) ; but the king in the tenth year of his reign, took so much offence at the conduct of this earl, that, in the despotic and sanguinary spirit of the times, he caused him to be beheaded. No record has been preserved of the nature or degree of his delinquency ; but the princess, his widow, being afterwards disobedient to her uncle's wishes to marry another of his favourites Simon de St. Lix, because "*he was lame of one leg*," the Conqueror was so much displeased, that he seized on great part of her possessions.

The king is presumed to have kept the demesnes of Weston *inter alia*, during a considerable time ; for no farther mention of it occurs, until the reign of Henry II. when it is related, in a return of Knights-fees here, that Amicia de Bidun, in 1174, paid scutage for half a Knights fee, as the representative of John de Bidun, the founder of Lavendon Abbey, who held an estate in Weston Underwood.

To whom this Manor was subsequently granted before it came to the Peyvres, or Peovers, after the termination of Henry III. is by no means clearly ascertained, there having been evidently a mistake in those accounts which describe it as the estate of the Earl of Leicester, for that was Weston Turville, near Aylesbury ; but in the reign of Edward I., or beginning of Edward II., John Peyvre held this manor ; and one of his family having married with the Bosuns, or Besyns, a fine was passed to vest the estate in the heirs of the bodies of Paulin Peyvre, and Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Besyn, or Bosun ; so that the lands at Weston subsequently descended to the Throckmortons.

The Throckmortons of Worcestershire and Warwickshire were a family of great antiquity, many of whom held several important offices under the Crown, as early as the reign of Richard II. They became connected with this county in 1446, by the marriage of Sir Thomas Throckmorton with Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Olney, Knight, of Weston Underwood, by Goditha, daughter of William Bosun.

In the reign of Queen Mary Sir Nicholas Throckmorton was impli-

cated in Sir Thomas Wyatt's conspiracy, and brought to trial ; however, he defended himself through a trial of ten hours' duration with admirable ability and courage, and was acquitted of the charge ; but was detained as a prisoner for some time, and fined £2,000. Notwithstanding, he was afterwards received by the queen with marks of favour and esteem, and subsequently fought in the battle of St. Quintin's. He was a valiant soldier and commander, and a consummate statesman. He died 12 February 1570, of the plague ; but Fuller says, "at supper, eating of sallad, not without suspicion of poison, the rather because happening in the house of one, no mean artist in that faculty, Robert Earl of Leicester," and lies buried on the south side of St. Catherine Cree church, London. It is remarkable, that he left his own life in verse, written, as is supposed, during his imprisonment, and said to have been in the library at Weston. The account of the meeting of Sir Nicholas with his father, after he had received the honour of knighthood, is interesting :

" Now, some thing gain'd, I licens'd to absent
Myself a space ; a progress rode
Unto my friends ; with me my wife there went,
And with my father we awhile abode
To me he shew'd good countenance openly ;
But yet alone he checkt me bitterly.

He thumpt me on the breast, and thus began :
Sir Knight ! Sir Knave ! a foolish boy you are ;
And yet thou think'st thyself a goodly man ;
Why should'st thou scorn thy father's daily fare ?
Or send me word when I should see thee here ?
As who should say I should provide good cheer.

Too base for thee thou thought'st thy father's food ;
But say 'tis so ; I tell thee in good sooth
My carter's meat I think is far too good
For such an one who brings so dainty tooth ;
I see thou grow'st into disdain of me
Wherefore, know this, I careless am of thee."

Another passage, respecting the death of his father, is too remarkable to be omitted :

" When all of us at years ; when two made knights ;
When five of us had been of parli'ment ;
All forward in the world, when all these sights
Our father saw—then, summon'd hence he went
No boot to strive, when death lists hence to call,
Who is no sparing judge, but visits all.

His want, though somewhat I bewail'd with tears
The miss of him, yet I did not discern :
My loss I could not see through youthful years ;
But all too late, at length this I did learn,
That he who seeth his father laid in grave,
May leave to look so sure a staff to have."

Francis Throckmorton was confined in a dungeon called "Little

ease," in the Tower of London, where he was treated with great cruelty. He was detected in a treasonable correspondence (said to have been discovered by an intercepted letter to Mary Queen of Scots), committed to the Tower, and put to the rack, to extort confession; whereupon, the Lord Paget and Earl of Arundel, a courtier, fled into France; but the Earls of Arundel and Northumberland were soon afterwards committed to the Tower. Throckmorton had sent a cabinet of papers to Mendoza, the Spanish ambassador; and there were found in his coffers, two lists; one of ports convenient to land forces, and the other of names of English gentlemen favourable to the Romish religion; but which he declared were forged, and so persisted on the rack. Being put to the rack a second time, he answered all questions demanded, admitting whatever they urged against him, such as that he had consulted with Sir Francis Englefield and others, how the country might be attempted by foreigners and the government altered, and had taken those notes; that he understood the catholic Princes had resolved on the invasion of England, and setting the Queen of Scots at liberty; that he had shewn these things to Mendoza, etc.; but when brought to trial at Guildhall, 21 May, steadfastly denied; openly accused the queen of cruelty; and said he had confessed to avoid further torture. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered; and 10 July, was executed at Tyburn, again denying what he had said, although he had, in order to obtain a pardon after sentence, repeated his confession in writing.*

Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Knight, who married the heiress of the Olneys of Weston, was sheriff of Worcestershire and Leicestershire; and knight of the shire for Worcestershire in 1447. His father, Sir John Throckmorton, had been Chamberlain of the Exchequer, and knight of the shire for Worcestershire; both were buried at Fladbury, in Worcestershire. Sir Robert Throckmorton, son of Sir Thomas, was a Privy Councillor in 1486, and a commander at the battle of Stoke in the following year. He went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1518, and died abroad in 1519. His son, Sir George Throckmorton, Knight, married Catherine, daughter of Nicholas, Lord Vaux of Harrowden. He was sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, and died in 1553, and was buried at Coughton in Warwickshire. Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, who died in 1570, above alluded to in connection with Wyatt's conspiracy, was sewer to Henry VIII., commander at Boulogne and at Musselburgh, chief butler of England, chamberlain of the Exchequer, and ambassador to Francis II. of France. In the troublous reign of Charles I., Sir Robert Throckmorton, Baronet, of Weston Underwood, suffered much for his loyalty to his sovereign. His lands were sequestered, his mansion at Coughton was plundered and converted into a garrison of the Parliamentary forces, and himself com-

*A very rare pamphlet, printed in 1584, was sold by auction by Messrs. Sotheby, Wellington Street, Strand, London, on 3 March 1899, entitled "Francis Throckmorton. A discoverie of the treasons practised and attempted against the Queenes Majestie and the Realme (for which) he was arraigned and condemned in Guyld Hall the one and twentie day of May last past."

pelled to seek refuge at Worcester. He died in 1650, and was buried at Coughton. Sir Thomas Throckmorton, the second baronet, died in 1680, and was buried at Weston Underwood. Sir Robert, the third baronet, partly rebuilt Weston House, and gave six bells to the church. He died in 1720, and was buried at Weston. His elder brother, Francis, died at Bruges in 1676, and his heart was buried here at Weston. Two of their sisters, Anne and Elizabeth, were nuns in French convents—the former at Paris, the latter at Rouen. The fourth baronet, Sir Robert was distinguished for his great charity, benevolence, and hospitality. He died in 1791, without male issue, and was buried at Coughton. His first wife, Theresa, daughter of the second Marquis of Powis, was buried at Weston. Two of his daughters became nuns at Paris.

George Throckmorton, of Weston Underwood, successor to the fourth baronet in the possessions of the Weston estate, married Anna Maria, sole daughter of William Parton, of Hatton, Gloucestershire, by Mary, daughter and heir of John Courteney, of Molland, Devonshire, and died at Bath, and was interred there in 1767. His son, Sir John Courteney Throckmorton, the fifth baronet, was born at Weston in 1753, and died and was buried at Coughton in 1819. The sixth baronet bore the same name as the fifth, and died here in 1826. Sir Charles Courteney Throckmorton, his brother, was the next baronet, and he died in 1840, and was buried at Coughton. Soon after the accession of Sir Charles to the estate at Coughton, the old mansion at Weston was taken down, and the proprietor removed to the more ancient abode of the Throckmortons, at Coughton.

This estate was sold at the Mart, London, 5 December 1898. William Anker, of the firm of Messrs. Simmons & Sons, Henley-on-Thames, was the auctioneer, and opened the proceedings by saying he would answer any questions relating to the conditions of sale, which, however, he would not read as they were in the hands of those present. No one present desiring further information, he commenced business by referring to Cowper's descriptions of the property, and while admitting that considerations of this kind, were thought by some to add but little to the intrinsic value, laid stress upon the fact that they had a strong bearing on the property in question, and made its acquisition more desirable. The sentimental value, which should add to the actual value, was still further enhanced by the fact that it had been in the possession of a noted family for hundreds of years. The audience listened to all this with great patience, being quite unmoved by the sentimental rhetoric with which they were being favoured. When the auctioneer descended to the domain of actual figures, he seemed to get nearer to the hearts of his audience. He stated that a city expert, 25 years ago had valued the estate at £130,000; that 20 years since, an offer of £118,000 was refused, and that subsequently another of £104,000 shared the same fate. He did not remind them that, some years ago it was sold for £112,000, to a member of the aristocracy, the purchase falling through owing to a quibble about the timber. Bids were now invited, and after a pause a start was made at £35,000,

advancing by £1,000 until £39,000 was reached, where for a time it remained. Then an extra £500 was offered, to which the auctioneer demurred, but eventually gave way. After a further pause during which the auctioneer did his best to move his hearers, another bid of an extra £1,000 was obtained, the property being knocked down at £40,500. The purchase was made by Messrs. Frere, Cholmeley & Co, solicitors, for Major Wentworth Grenville Bowyer.

Ecclesiastical History.

The Church was originally only a Chapel of Ease to Olney, until Pope Gregory, in 1376, on the petition of John de Olney, then Lord of the Town, issued his Bull, permitting the inhabitants a place of Sepulture and a chapel, on the representation of Weston being more than one mile distant from Olney, and incommodious for their attendance and use; it being agreed, that the curates should have a stipend or salary paid by the said John Olney and all his successors, as Lords or Impropriators. There were no glebe lands belonging to Weston; and although the Valor in Ecton stands at £30/14/- per annum, the minister was insufficiently maintained. In 1764, it was returned to the Diocesan, that the curates, presented to the Bishop to obtain his episcopal license to be appointed thereunto, were to receive the stipend, payable by Sir Robert Throckmorton; and he being a Roman Catholic, the curates have been, of course, ever since the Reformation, made by certain trustees, in the name of the patron. The annual income now is only £49/10/-.

Curates since the Reformation.

CHRISTOPHER GILES, in 1524.

ROBERT SKELMARDY officiated in 1560.

THOMAS PHILIPS was minister in 1568 and 1593.

HUGH PORTER 1596. He willed, 31 July 1637, to be buried in the church or churchyard here.

THOMAS JOHNSON was minister in 1647.

THOMAS BENET was curate in 1653.

THOMAS RICHARDS, M.A., was admitted 13 March 1677. His successor was

SAMUEL SALMON, B.A., who was admitted 19 April 1681

ROBERT ESKRIGG, M.A., was admitted 15 April 1684. He was also vicar of Ravenstone; and on his cession.

JAMES HOPE, M.A. was admitted 13 January 1692; died in 1732; and was succeeded by

HENRY KELLY, who was also vicar of Olney in 1735.

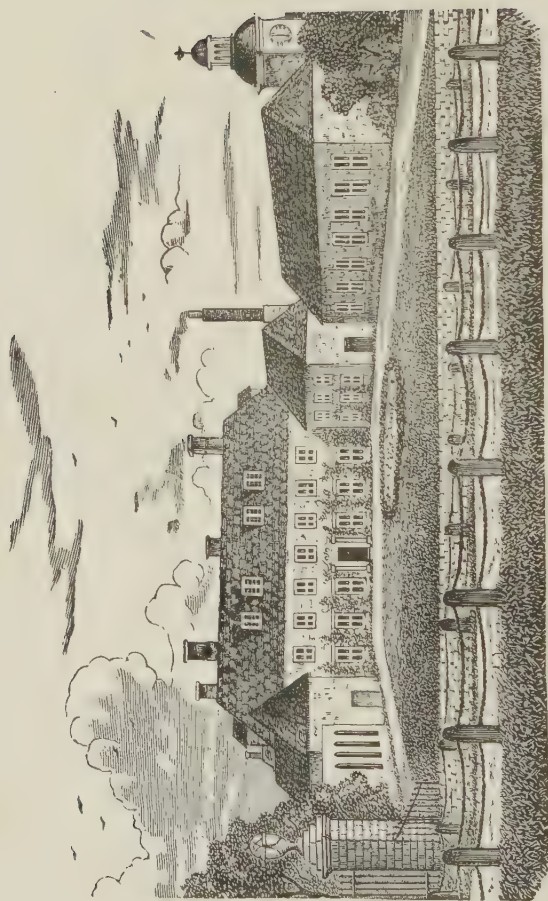
JOHN CLARKE was licensed by the Bishop in 1753; to whom the Rev. Thomas Scott (the celebrated rector of Aston Sandford), was some time a stipendiary curate. At his death, he was succeeded by

JOHN BUCHANAN, admitted in 1810. He died in 1826, and his successor was

WILLIAM GODFREY, B.A., licensed by the Bishop, and admitted in February 1827. He was also vicar of Ravenstone. It has since remained in conjunction with Ravenstone.

Weston House.

Weston House stood on the northern bank of the Ouse, about one mile west of Olney, and about half a mile from the river. This venerable Gothic manor-house formed a quadrangle enclosing a court. Some



WESTON HOUSE, DEMOLISHED 1827.

parts of it were supposed to have been six or seven centuries in existence. It was pulled down in 1827, soon after the death of the sixth Baronet, and no part of the mansion itself is standing. The extensive and valuable library, numerous family portraits, and many coats of arms in painted glass, with which the windows were adorned, were removed to Coughton. A portion of the stabling, crowned by a cupola (in which is a good clock) remains; as well as four stone piers surmounted by vines and pines. The Catholic Chapel occupies a portion of the site of the mansion. A writer of much taste in an old magazine, whose "fate" it was to see this old seat of the Throckmortons levelled with the dust," describes the old mansion as having been "seated upon the brow of the hill, well flanked by its old hereditary trees. The grounds which surround it" he says, "descend with a beautiful sweep to the river Ouse, whose delightful meanderings were the favourite resort of the melancholy Cowper. From the terrace on the right of the mansion are seen the stately groves of Tyringham, once the domain of the Knightly family of that name, one of whose warlike sons lost his life on the bloody plains of Wakefield. The front view comprises the picturesque village of Emberton, and Clifton Hall, late the seat of the Small family. On the left is the town of Olney, with its Gothic church and ancient bridge." And after a quotation or two from Cowper, he continues: "In short there is scarcely a place in this part of the kingdom equal to it in point of diversified view, poetical recollections, and interesting antiquity." Further on he adds, referring to the old house "At this moment little or nothing remains of its once ponderous walls and antique gables. The wild winds from the surrounding hills now sweep unchecked and mournfully over that space, the abode of the wise, the powerful, and the brave." Again, he adds, "Were the northern magician to obtain the many traditional gleanings of this hall and family I doubt not that he would send forth to the world a tale, not inferior in interest to some of his happiest productions. That materials for such an undertaking are not wanting must be evident to all those who are aware that this family has always been firmly attached to the Catholic faith, and of course in the earlier ages of the Reformation, very unfavourably disposed towards the Government. One of them suffered the punishment of death, for being deeply concerned in one of the various plots to free Mary of Scotland from her imprisonment by Elizabeth; and I believe tradition informs us that there was scarcely a plot to accomplish Catholic ascendancy, and restoration of the Stuarts, which had not the name of Throckmorton attached to it."

The scenery of the park and around is of the finest description, and has well supplied a theme for Cowper's muse. This was the favourite topic of this greatly admired poet, who for years resided at Olney, and then removed to Weston. The "Wilderness" alluded to by Cowper, is a delightful retreat, and contains several statues, pedestals with urns, etc., some of which bear inscriptions. Cowper describes this thick grove, as well as all the other parts of the rich scenery, and the objects of interest in Weston Park. There are some noble avenues both of lime and chestnut trees around the Park. On the brow of a hill at the

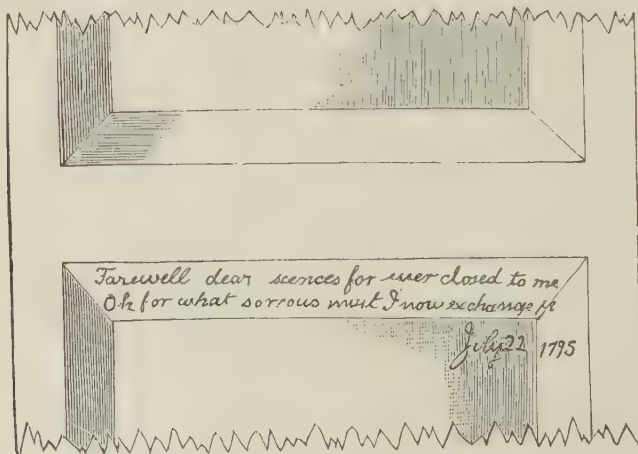
north end of the Park is a summer house, better known as the "Alcove."



THE LODGE.

In the Village,

almost in the centre, and where the roads are placed at right angles, is the base of an ancient cross. Not far from it is the house in which Cowper resided—"The Lodge." It is a good sized stone



FACSIMILE OF THE WRITING ON THE SHUTTER.

building, with sixteen windows in front, a small garden in front and a larger one in the rear. "We dwell," wrote the poet, "in a neat and

and comfortable abode in one of the prettiest villages in the kingdom. It affords opportunities of walking at all seasons, abounding with beautiful grass grounds which encompass it on all sides to a considerable distance. These grounds are skirted by woods of considerable extent." When Cowper was leaving these scenes he loved so well and described so vividly, he seems to have had a presentiment that he should never return, for he wrote on the window shutter of a back room on the second floor, these two sad lines, which are still to be seen there, but they bear evidence of having been repenciled many times.

"Farewell, dear scenes, for ever closed to me;
Oh! for what sorrows must I now exchange ye."

July 22nd, 1795.

The house, which adjoins the churchyard and commands a full view of the street, was used as the curatage for many years. At one time it went by the name of Pear Tree House, owing to a basket of pears being accepted annually for the rent by the owner, Charles Higgins, who always gave a written receipt for the same to his tenant, the Rev. Thomas Scott.

The Catholic Chapel.

The Chapel was a small but neat building of stone. It was lighted by seven mullioned windows with geometrical headings. The walls of the sanctuary were pointed in diamond pattern, each lozenge containing the sacred monogram. Over the altar were the symbols of the four Evangelists, with the Dove, the emblem of the Holy Spirit; and the ceiling was of mazarine blue, thickly studded with golden stars. The altar was admirably grained to represent various coloured marbles (the work of the Rev. Mr. Picquo), and the reredos was richly painted and gilded. The floor was paved in the centre with black marble and white flags, which in time past formed part of the pavement of the hall of the destroyed mansion.

When the services of the Catholic faith ceased to be celebrated in the parish church, the Throckmorton family devoted a room at the top of their mansion here, to the purpose of their religion, and during the long gloomy period of presecution, the Catholics in the neighbourhood had, occasionally, the services of a priest of their faith, in that room or temporary chapel; and mass was celebrated there, frequently by fugitive priests, at the risk of being caught in the act, and punished for the crime of high treason. Lipscomb says "The old chapel was formed out of three of the attics on the west side of the house, which were thrown together." In removing the old mansion a small secret cell was discovered, about four feet wide, and seven feet long, and five feet high, which had been ingeniously contrived, for concealing the priest, on any sudden alarm, during his sojourn in the house. It was conveniently situated near the chapel, so that on the first appearance of danger he could, in an instant descend by a trap door into his dark and secret hiding place; and the pursuivants might walk over him a hundred times without a least suspicion of the object of their search being just beneath their feet. Nothing was found in the cell but a

piece of old matting that covered the floor, an old box about five feet long, and a short ladder cut out of one piece of wood. The knowledge of this hiding-place had, no doubt, been confined to a very few persons; and hence when some years after the persecutions had ceased, and those to whom the secret had been intrusted had passed away, the secret itself became lost; and it was not known, even to the family, where the "priest's hole" was situated; though it was well known that there was one somewhere about the mansion. When the old house was pulled down it was necessary to provide a new chapel, and this was effected by converting one of the outbuildings into a place of worship. In consequence of the removal of the beams in order to raise the ceiling, in a few years the walls gave way, and in 1838 the chapel had to be rebuilt.

Charitable Benefactions.

On a tablet which was formerly over the south door of the church, is the following list of donations given to the poor

Gifts given to y^e poor of this Parish :

J660	Mr. Tho : Porter	£010
J678	M ^{rs} . Eliz : Tripp, wid :	020
J683	Mr. Iohn Derrey	J40
J702	M ^{rs} . Mary Price wid :	005
1724	M ^{rs} . Ursula Price	005
1726	Mr. Francis Chapman	005
1731	M ^{rs} . Eliz : Rook wid :	010
1744	M ^{rs} . Elen ^r Clifford wid :	005

The Feoffees' Estate consists of seven acres of garden land and two or three cottages. The rents are distributed to the poor. The profits of about 20 acres of land called Town Dudley Charity are distributed to poor widows. An unknown donor left a rent-charge of £2 a year for apprenticing poor boys of this parish. Charles Higgins, by his will, dated in 1792, left £500, the interest to be annually laid out in December, in clothing ten poor women of Weston Underwood. At Christmas 30 blankets are distributed through the benevolence of a Mrs. Spink.

Find of Roman Coins.

On 31 December 1858, while six labourers were draining a field called White's Close, they dug up a vessel containing a large number of coins of the Roman Empire. The men not knowing the value of the coins, sold numbers of them for small sums. Sir Robert Throckmorton, having heard of the find, claimed the coins as treasure-trove, and obtained possession of 166 Imperial denarii, four Legionary, one third brass of the Lower Empire, one of Augustus B.C. 42, and four of Mark Antony B.C. 30. Sir Robert presented 11 denarii to the Bucks Archæological Society, together with many pieces of Roman pottery, and men's and horses' bones found at the same time.

The Church,

dedicated to St. Lawrence, is situated at the western end of the village. It is said to have been built by John de Olney in the XIVth Century,

and comprises a clerestoried nave, side aisles, chancel, north porch, and west tower. The the exterior is Perpendicular, with four good three-light square-headed windows in the aisles, and six equally good two-lights with arched heads in the clerestory; the chancel and tower, and the piers and arches of the nave are plain Early English. The tower is embattled, has a double window in each face with Louvre boarding, and is surmounted by a cupola. It contains a good peal of six bells, inscribed



BRASS OF ELIZABETH
HUNGERFORD.

First : IESVS SPEED MEE 1687.

Second : HEW HIGINS CHVRCHWARDEN 1687.

Third : HEVRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1687.

Fourth : MATTHEW BAGLEY MADE MEE NOMEŃ
DOMINI BENEDICTVM 1687.

Fifth : ATTHEW BAGLY MADE MEE AND PRAY
1687. There are two coins on this bell.

Sixth : WILLIAM EMERTON OF WOOTTON NEAR
BEDFORD FECIT 1779.

The nave and chancel are covered with tiles and the aisles with lead. An arcade of four arches on each side, divide the nave and aisles. The tower arch is high and well proportioned, and through it is seen a good two-light window in the west face of the tower; the chancel arch rests on clustered columns. The pulpit and reading desk are of plain oak, and the pews are grained oak colour. The font is plain Early English. The ceilings of the nave and chancel are of plaster, and flat; the wooden roofs of the aisles are visible. The chancel is small, and has a good three-light window, the tracery in the head being filled with ancient stained glass. There are four two-light windows in the side walls. On the communion table is a pair of ormulu candlesticks, which were once the property of the Duke of Buccleugh. They were presented to the church by the late Rev. Thomas Welton, LL.B., of Olney. In the south wall is the piscina, and in the north wall the priest's door. In the centre of the chancel floor is a long Latin inscription in brass, now much defaced and a small portion missing, with the symbols of the Evangelists at the corners. This was around the large blue flag that covered the grave of John Olney, who died in 1405, and his wife Dionisia. The epitaph records that he converted the ancient and dilapidated chapel into a church, and reads

Left side : talmulatus § John Olney mulitis . n . . . ecclesiam ' § Insuper a Papa
: perquisibit qđ fuit : antiqua capella ruens c||b sub petra (eagle).

Top : Aure sepulture : gaudeat iste locus || me in plebeam || condidit || § hic. qz sa-
cerdotem semper divina cauentem . § (angel).

Right side : Rector ut immeriat : causa mobens fuerat ' § Anno Mlmo quater C
quinq; relictis . § In Benedicte tua : luce recessit ab||n emine (lion).

Bottom : Pro quonam rogo te funde salute || preces + qui iacet ut cernis mo §
li : iacet in dionisia consors (bull).

The parallels (||) show the joins of the strips of brass. On the south side of the chancel is a neat oval mural tablet inscribed to the memory of the Rev. William Gregson, a former Roman Catholic priest. At the east end of the south aisle is a handsome mural monument in black and white marbles, inscribed to various members of the Throckmorton family. At the east end of the south aisle, now covered by the organ, is a brass with the effigy of Elizabeth (Hussay) wife first of Sir Walter Hungerford, and afterwards of Sir Robert Throckmorton. At the feet of the lady are the figures of her five daughters, and the inscription

Hic iacet tumulta Dn'a Elizabetha Hungerford,
uxor filiarum Dn'i Hussey, que pri-
mum nupta fuit Dn'o Gualtero Hungerford,
et nuper uxor Roberti Throckmorton Militis,
quæ obiit xviij. die Januarij A° Dn'i Mcccclij.

At each corner of the stone is a coat of arms. At the upper end, on the right-hand corner, on a chev. three bars gamelles, for *Throckmorton*; on the opposite corner, a cross for *Hussey*; the arms on the right hand corner at bottom, are torn off; on the opposite corner, two bars in chief; three plates for *Hungerford*, impaling a cross for *Hussey*; over the woman's head, in a shield these quarterings: 1 *Throckmorton*; 2 *Abberbury*; 3 *Olney*; 4 A chev. between three crescents for *Spincy*; 5 *Olney*; 6 Three blunt arrows for *Bosun*; 7 Guttè of six, for *Wylie*; impaling 1 A cross for *Hussey*; 2 Barry of six. ermine and gu. also for *Hussey*; 3 A bend engrailed between two cotizes for *Fortesque*; 4 As the first.

There are several memorials in the church of the families of Ruck, Higgins, Chapman, Humphry, Hope, Fortesque, Fralsie, Easte, etc.

In the church-yard, on the south side of the chancel are several very ancient stones, coffin-shaped and prismatical, on the surface of the ground, from eight to twelve inches in thickness. These appear to have been the covers of stone coffins. At the side of these lids is a curious stone, the work of James Andrews, the Olney stonemason, to the memory of Andrew Blower and his wife Sarah, who were buried together. On it is the representation of two coffins on a trestle, parts of the coffins being hidden by a pall. The lower part of the stone is divided into two compartments, each containing an inscription.

The register dates from 1681, and there is an ancient terrier and several documents preserved in the church chest.

RAVENSTONE.



THIS parish, known as *Ravenston* at the Norman Survey, is bounded on the east by Weston Underwood, and like that parish, is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire, on the west by Stoke Goldington, and on the south by the river Ouse and Tyringham. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west from Olney and 5 miles north-east from Newport Pagnell. The area of the parish is 2,230 acres of which about 200 acres are woodland.

The population in 1891, was 300. It is in the same jurisdiction as the previously mentioned parishes. There is a good supply of limestone which is occasionally used for building purposes. This rural village was brought into prominence by a disastrous fire in 1897. The village feast or wake is celebrated the first Sunday after the 17th of November.

Manorial History.

In the Norman Survey, this manor is described in Bonestou Hundred, and holden by Hugh, of Walter Gifard, as five hides. There were six carucates of land. In the demesne were two, and ten villeins with six bordars having four carucates. There were four servants, and one mill of twenty-five shillings rent. Six carucates of pasture; wood for three hundred hogs, valued, and had been constantly, at one hundred shillings; in the time of Edward, at £6. This manor, Lewen, a thane of Edward, had holden, and could sell it.

The manor, after the decease of Walter Gifard, the second son of this name, and of Hugh de Bolebec, his subfeudatory, who had holden Ravenstone under him, and from whom it had descended to a second Hugh de Bolebec, who passed this estate in 1165, was soon afterwards given to Walter de Wahul, or Woodhall, in frank marriage with his wife Roesia, probably, a kinswoman of the Bolebecs, and formed part of that barony.

From Walter de Wahul it descended to Simon, his son; and from him to John, his son, who held it in 1212. It was, on the division of the barony of Bolebec between the two daughters of Walter, the last Baron, of the purparty of Constance, who married Elias de Beauchamp, son of Simon de Beauchamp, Baron of Bedford, and Steward of the Household of Stephen.

This Elias de Beauchamp had lands in Normandy as well as in England; and when John lost his dominions beyond the channel, he confiscated the property of those of his adherents who remained in France; and amongst this number was Elias de Beauchamp. It may

therefore be presumed, that the Wahuls, from this time, held Ravenstone as the immediate tenants of the Honour of Gifard. It did not, however, long continue their property; for Saher de Wahul, the heir of the last named John, about 1244, conveyed it to Peter de Chaceport, keeper of the king's wardrobe, a very rich ecclesiastic; at that time rector of Ivinghoe, in this county; and archdeacon of Wells.

Peter Chaceport, being a clergyman, had no issue; and therefore conveyed this manor, before his death, to the King, to the intent that a priory might be founded here, of the Order of St Augustine; which intention was executed by Henry III., who, with these lands, founded and endowed a priory and canons, and granted them the custody of their house in times of vacation. This foundation was made in 1254, about which time Chaceport exchanged this life for a better; for a contemporary historian remarks, that, "he ended his life gloriously, and made a noble will."

It appears, by an inquisition at Bedford, in 1337, that John Baron Woodhall died in possession of Woodhall and Longford manors, *cum pert.* and left John, his son and next heir, aged 16 years.

Sir Thomas Woodhall, Knight, Baron of Woodhall, who married Hawise, daughter of Henry Praers, son of John de Woodhall, Knight, Baron of Woodhall and Lord of Longford, who died in 1296, and who had summons to Parliament as a Baron, in 1277, acknowledged the service of three Knight's fees for his barony of Woodhall. He was son of Walter, second son and heir of Saherus, Baron of Woodhall (his elder brother Simon, having died without issue), who died in 1250; having succeeded to the estates of Robert de Brassingham, first husband of Agnes, sister and co-heir of John Baron Woodhall, and daughter of Simon de Woodhall. He gave lands in Woodhall to the prior and hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in the reign of John; and was younger brother of Walter Baron Woodhall, in 1178, son of Walter Baron Woodhall, in the time of Henry I., who was son of Walter de Flanders, Lord of Wahull, alias Woodhall, in 1086.

Sir Thomas Woodhall, Knight, son of Nicholas, died 23 June, 1427; Thomas Woodhall, his son and next heir, being eleven years old. John, son of John Woodhall, died in 1368, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth three years old, and Eleanor two, who died his next heirs. Sir Thomas Woodhall, Knight, was second son of Nicholas, cousin and next heir of Sir John de Woodhall, Knight, Baron de Woodhall, in 1327, by Isabell his wife, whom he left a widow in 1337.

Nicholas Baron Woodhall married first, Mary, daughter of Edward Rawleigh, of Barnborough, 1508; and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Parr, Knight, 1523; whose issue by them terminated in Fulk Woodhall, his second son; of three daughters. Mary married Richard Barnobie, of Walford, in Northamptonshire; and Anne married David Seamer, of Hampshire. Fulk Woodhall married Alice, eldest daughter of William Coles, of Leigh, in Worcesterhire; and had Nicholas, his son and heir, who married Barbara, daughter of William Hobbes, of Hailies, in Gloucestershire. By an inquisition taken at Northampton, 9 November 1532, Nicholas Woodhall was returned

to have died 6 May 1532 ; and that Anthony, his son and heir, was 14 years old and more, 5 May in the same year.

In 1512, Henry the VIII. pardoned the inquisition not having been taken after the death of Fulk Woodhall, sued forth, in 1540, it appeared, that he was son and heir of Nicholas, son of Fulk, son and heir of John, son and heir of Thomas Woodhall ; that John Lord Woodhall was 48 years old in 1475 ; and died 1491 ; that Thomas Lord Woodhall died 1441, having married Isabell, eldest daughter of Sir William Trussell, Knight, of Elnesthorne ; and that John his son, was his next heir, then five years of age and more.

By an inquisition taken at Bedford, on the 6th of November 1543, it was found that Anthony Woodhall died 4 February 1543 ; and that Agnes his daughter and next heir, was, at the death of her father, 17 days old. His wife Anne, was daughter of Sir John Smith, Baron of the Exchequer ; having married, as her second husband, John Lewsone, son and heir of Nicholas Lewsone, of Horne-place, Hawling, in Kent ; and had her third husband, Edward Griffith, of Dingley. Anthony Baron Woodhall had a sister Joyce, married to William Midwinter, of Morlache, in Gloucestershire, and had issue.

By an inquisition taken at Toddington in Bedfordshire, 19 May, 1576, after the death of Agnes Sale, wife of Sir George Calveley, Knight, daughter and heir of Anthony Woodhall, Warkworth, in Northamptonshire, it was found, that the said Agnes died at Hockliff, in Bedfordshire, 23 March last, without issue of the said Sir George Calveley and Agnes ; and that Richard Chetwode was son and heir of the said Agnes, and then of the age of sixteen years and more. George and Hugh Calveley, sons of George and Agnes, died in infancy.

The priors continued lords of Ravenstone till the dissolution of their house, in 1523, when the priory was dissolved by a Papal Bull ; and granted at the request of Henry VIII. with other estates, to his favourite minister, Cardinal Wolsey, the better to enable him to endow his Colleges, then building at Ipswich and Oxford. After the fall of this ambitious minister, in 1532, the manor of Ravenstone was surrendered to the Crown, by John Higden, then Dean of Christ Church, Oxford.

Edward VI., in the second year of his reign, granted the manor of Ravenstone, the site of the Priory, the mill, and divers lands, to Sir Francis Bryan, Knight, and Joane, Countess of Ormonde and Ossory, for their lives, to hold by fealty only. Sir Francis Bryan was dead in 4 and 5 Philip and Mary ; for in that year, the King and Queen granted the reversion of Ravenstone, after the death of the Countess, to Sir Robert Throckmorton, for seventy years from the Michaelmas, or Lady Day which should first happen after the death of the Countess, she survived till 1655, when Sir Robert Throckmorton entered into possession the annual reserved rent to be paid by him being £73/13. This lease should not have expired till 1635, but, part of the reserved rent remaining unpaid, (£16) about 1527, through the negligence or default of Sir Robert Throckmorton's steward, Ravenstone was declared to have reverted to the Crown, and for this reason, several years after the default

had been made, a new lease of the premises, for twenty-one years, was granted, in 1586, to Henry Berkeley, at the same annual reserved rent. It appears, from the Great Roll of the Pipe, that Sir Robert Throckmorton's rent of £73/13 was received for the next year; but the arrears of £16 was recorded to be unpaid. In the year succeeding this, 1588, a grant was made of the premises, in fee, to Sir Moyle Finch, after the expiration or other legal determination of the lease to Berkeley, at the same annual reserved rent. This seems to have been done without the knowledge of Sir Robert Throckmorton, who supposed himself still in possession either not being aware of the default of payment of the £16 or conceiving that the subsequent receipt of the rent had averted the forfeiture; had he kept possession. The dispute respecting Ravenstone, between Sir Moyle Finch and Sir Robert Throckmorton, was carried on for a great length of time, and was at last, in 1598, brought under the notice of Parliament, and was referred, by consent, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper; Popham, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; and Anderson, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas as Arbitrators, who were to make their award on or before the 16th day of February, following; and the respective parties entered into bonds for £5,000 to stand to the decision of the Arbitrators.

The Priory.

The Priory here was of the order of Canons Regular of St. Augustine. Peter de Chaceport, having purchased of Saher de Wahul, the estate which the latter held in the parish together with the capital mansion belonging to it, and the advowson of the rectory, the same descended, at the decease of the said Peter, to Hugh de Chaceport, his son and heir, which he surrendered to Henry III.; who, in consideration of the good services of Peter Chaceport, and Hugh his son, granted this estate to the prior and canons of the order of St. Augustine, then lately founded here, in pure and perpetual arms, to pray for the souls of the king, the said Peter and Hugh de Chaceport, and other saints departed; granted to the said canons sole power of governing, disposing, and filling the said priory in time of vacation, without impediment.

In 1524, this convent was given up to Cardinal Wolsey, by the prior and four canons, who were translated to other monasteries. The surrender is dated 20 January in that year; and three days afterwards, as appears by an inquisition, the religious entirely forsook the place *tantum locum pro fanum*; this circumstance occurring, the conventual church is said to have been pulled down, and the present parochial edifice, dedicated to All Saints, built, out of the materials thereof. On the descent from the hill on which the church stands, is a large orchard, moated round, in which was formerly a fish pond, since filled up, and a well of water, formerly covered with an ancient wrought stone, through the cavity of which, the stream proceeding from it runs into a small brook. The spring appears to arise here, but the stone is evidently part of a niche,* seemingly inverted; and, according to tradition, there

* This carved stone now rests against an ash tree in the orchard.

had been an old hermitage, at about the distance of half a mile. Willis states, that, in his time, a small portion of a wall was visible, part of the old ruins, out of which a very indifferent farm house had been built. The ancient parish church was at some distance from the town at the time it was demolished. Browne Willis further remarks, that there were not the least remains of the priory, even the site being forgotten, neither are there in the parish church, any ancient monuments, or painted glass, or signs of antiquity, notwithstanding, the same appears to be of much earlier date than the Reformation, which made Willis unwilling to credit the tradition of its being erected out of the materials of the priory church.

No register of this house is known to exist; but by an inquisition, of which only an imperfect copy remains in the Chapter House at Westminster, it was found, that in 1526, Cardinal Wolsey was seised in his demesne, as of fee of the site and precinct of the Monastery or Priory of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Ravenstone; and in the King's Remembrancer's Office, is a commission touching the site of the late priory, dated in Easter Term 1588.

An impression of the seal of Radulph is appendant to a deed in the British Museum of the date 1278, representing the Virgin and the Divine Infant, with the figure of a monk below, praying, and the legend, **S' RADVLPH L PRIOR. DE: RAVEN: STON.** The larger seal, here illustrated, is from a deed in the Augmentation Office and also bears the effigy of the infant Christ and the virgin with the legend **. SIGILL' AODI- VNÆ . PRIOR AT . D RAVENSTON.**



Priors.

WILLIAM DE DIVISIS said to have been appointed first prior of the church, newly founded by Henry III., the King's mandate for admitting him being dated 16 June 1254, and addressed to the Bishop of Lincoln.

ADAM DE WIMUNDELE, or **WYMUNASLE**, resigned 5 February 1274.

RALPH elected 16 March 1274. See above seal.

GODWIN, died 1309. See above seal.

ROGER DE CLERE, elected 27 April 1307; died 1323.

WALTER ANEELL had the King's assent to his election 12 March 1323; received the Temporalities 27 April 1323.

ROBERT DE FERDELE died 1348.

GILBERT DE MOLESWORTH received the Royal assent to his election 25 August 1348; resigned 1364.

JOHN SERDELE, or **YERDELE**, died 10 December 1396.

JOHN MAN DE RAUNDES, called also John Raundes, Cannon of Stone, instituted 22 January 1396; died July 1418.

JOHN STANNEY elected, with the Royal assent, 24 July 1418; but resigned, after forty five year's Government.

RALPH NEWPORT, alias **BELASYSE**, licensed by the King, 9 November 1443; resigned 22 November, 1457.

THOMAS ORLYNBERE elected 20 November, 1457; resigned 15 April 1459.

THOMAS WOLVERCOTE resigned 1463.

JOHN HOLTE resigned 1473.

EUSTACHIUS BERNARD elected 11 May 1471.

RALPH BLASE occurs 1492

WILLIAM WYTTESLEY occurs 1504 and 1510

HENRY occurs 1521

RICHARD COCKS was the last Prior.

Ecclesiastical History.

After the foundation of the priory of Ravenstone, the Priors of that house presented to the vicarage until the dissolution, when the estate was granted by Henry VIII., to Cardinal Wolsey, towards the endowment of his College, at Oxford. But in 1525, it was found by an inquisition, that Cardinal Wolsey was in possession *inter alia*, of the manors of Ravenstone and Stoke Goldington, and of Court Baron within the manor of Ravenstone; of the advowson and patronage of the church or rectory there, with all tithes, &c., also of a water mill at Ravenstone; and thirty messuages, forty acres of arable land, three hundred acres of pasture, one hundred acres of meadow one hundred acres of wood, and £10 rent in Ravenstone, Weston, Piddington, and Stoke Goldington. These premises seem to have constituted the whole of the possessions of the Priory.

Henry VIII., granted Ravenstone to the Countess of Desmond and Sir Francis Bryan for life. The Countess survived, and died in 1564; but in 1556, or 1557 the same was demised to Sir Robert Throckmorton, for seventy years, at the annual rent of £73/13.

In 1585, the Queen, for a certain some of money paid at the Exchequer and for divers other causes, demised to Hon. Berkeley, the ground, land, site, and precinct of the late monastery or priory of Ravenstone, *cum pert.*; and all those manors of Ravenstone and Stoke Goldington, *cum pert.*; and the water mill in Ravenstone; 20 messuages, 40 acres of pasture, 200 acres of meadow, 100 acres of wood; £10 rent in Ravenstone, Weston, Piddington, and Goldington; and the lordship or manor, called the manor place of Ravenstone, and the site or circuit of the said mansion, *cum pert.*; and all houses, edifices, yards, &c., with the "Courte Curtilage" eight gardens, bridges, pools, the stews within the circuit of the said site, and all the demesne lands, &c., to the said lordships or manors pertaining; and all and singular the lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, rents, reversions, services, &c., in Ravenstone, Weston Underwood, Stoke Goldington, Hanslope, Piddington, and Hartwell, to the said manor belonging; all which premises were late parcel of the possessions of Cardinal Wolsey, except the great trees, wards, marriages, &c., with the advowsons of the churches and chapels; and all other royalties to the said lordship or manors belonging; and the rectory of Ravenstone; and all Courts, and perquisites of Courts Leets, &c., *habend*, to Henry Berkeley, from the above date, for 21 years, at £73/13 per annum.

In 1587, the queen, reciting the preceding grant and conveyance of lands from Sir Thomas Heneage, Knight, her Vice-Chamberlain, and for services done by him at her request, granted to Sir Moyle Finch, Knight, and John Awdley, all the premises before demised, to hold the same in fee, at the former reserved rent.

The advowson, having been thus granted in perpetuity, 12 June 1591, to Sir Moyle Finch, Knight, it descended, in a direct line of succession, to the Lord Chancellor Finch, Earl of Nottingham, who became the founder of the alms-houses here, for six poor men and six poor women, with an allowance of $3/6$ payable to each of them weekly. He erected two ranges of apartments for their occupation, facing each other; one for the men, the other for the women. His lordship also augmented the vicarage with £84 per annum by the purchase of an annual fee-farm rent; thus increasing the yearly stipend of the vicar to £100, the value of the living before having been only £16 per annum, which had been paid of the jointure of Catherine, queen of Charles II.; but the new stipend was settled on the vicar upon a compulsory agreement, that he should read prayers every week in the parish church, on Wednesdays and Fridays, which the alms-people were compelled regularly to attend under certain restrictions.

In 1603, Thomas Throckmorton and Richard Berkeley conveyed their right to Ravenstone rectory, to Robert Walsingham, gent., and Thomas Gandy, yeoman, for eighty years, they paying 12d. yearly in Weston church porch.

In 1610, Ravenstone parsonage was sold to Sir Arthur Savage, of Tattenhoe, Knight, by Sir Francis Fortescue, of Salden, Sir William Fortescue, of Hanslope, and Throckmorton, of Weston, for £1,600.

That acute judge of men and manners, Philip Duke of Wharton, thus characterized that great man, Lord Chancellor Finch, directly contradicting much of what had been said of him. "His extraction was noble, his education liberal, his bent lay to the law. While attorney he was no ways honoured by his office, but was an honour to it; for he never lessened the business and reputation of one place to advance another. He came always attended to the hall suitable to his dignity; and the greatest respect and deference were ever paid him, for he added lustre and grace to the place he filled. When advanced to the bench, he generously gave away all the employments under him and obliged such officers as could bear it, to attend in their coaches. His train was made up of gentlemen of figure, men of estates, barristers-at-law, and such as had reputation in their profession, and were suitable and becoming so high a station. His decrees were pronounced with the greatest solemnity and gravity; no man's ever were in higher esteem, had more weight, or carried greater authority at this day. He was a great refiner but never made use of nice distinctions to prejudice truth, or colour over what deserves the worst of names. He frequently declared he sat there to do justice, and, as long as his majesty was pleased to continue him on that seat, he would do it, by the help of God, impartially to all; to the officer as well as the suitor. If the officer exceeded his just fees, or played tricks with his client, he would fine or punish him severely, at the same time, the trouble and attendance of the officer (he thought), justly entitled him to his fees. His reprimands were mixed with sweetness and severity; and so pointed as to correct, not confound, the council. He was indeed difficult of access; but when you had admittance, you found nothing from him but that

which was fair, just, and honourable; so that he had the happiness to send most people away with satisfaction. Dispatch was the duty he was most intent upon as a matter that greatly concerned the honour of the court; and upon a debate relating to a cause that had been upwards of thirty years in court, he immediately appointed a day for the hearing of it, and declared he would sit five or six days together, but he would rid the court if so great a scandal and ignominy. His oratory was manly, strong, and just; Demosthenes and Cicero were his favourite authors; and his own compositions are the best proof that can be given of his admirable way of imitating those great and excellent orators. I have heard the judicious Mr. Locke in discourse, say, that in his opinion, in some of his lordship's speeches, the language was the correctest and his composition the most complete he ever met with in the English tongue. His tables were not only handsome but magnificent, and suitable to his quality and dignity. When on a certain occasion they were reduced, and there was less plenty and splendour at his board than usual, his lordship could not forbear to say, but with the greatest tenderness, that the provision was not sufficient, and what was becoming his rank and office. The four thousand a year that constantly attended the seals for hospitality, port, and dignity, after his lordship had received it for a considerable time, he declined to accept any longer; declaring, that had he held the seals but a short time, he would have thought himself justly entitled to it for his life, to have made amends for the time, expence, and trouble he had been at, to qualify himself for his profession, to follow which, he was rendered incapable by being made keeper; but seeing his majesty, through his great goodness to him, more than his own merit and desert, had been graciously pleased to continue the seals to him longer than he could have expected, he could not in conscience take it, being very sensible that his majesty, at that time, might have had need of it in his own family.

"That he did not stoop to mean compliances, usual at court is evident from the remarkable story of the Earl of Danby. The impeachment was violent, and carried on with the utmost fury. When the king sent for the chancellor, and commanded him to put the seals to a pardon ready prepared, the chancellor remonstrated, with his usual gravity, that it was contrary to law to pardon any subject while under an impeachment, that it would be the undoing of him and his family; and therefore, hoped his majesty would excuse him. The king, considering the integrity of the man, which was clear, entire, and uniform, called for the seals, ordered the officer to do his duty, and afterwards returned him back the seals, with the compliment, "Take them my Lord; I know not where to bestow them better."

"There may have been persons on the bench of more extensive knowledge, and greater capacities, but as to the duty and faithful discharge of the office, his lordship never had a superior, and I am afraid, there will be but few equals. His morals were as chaste as his writings, and they who have pretended to criticise the one, could never find the least fault with the other. His conversation was always with the greatest deference to decency and good manners. He was ever on his

guard to parry the thrusts with courtiers, and men of pleasantry. A good name, he thought the most valuable thing in life, and that on which virtue and honour depended. For he that slights the one, can never have any value for the other; it is better to be unborn than ill-bred, and out of life than profligate and abandoned.

“To figure this great and inestimable man aright, and to paint him in his true colours, and with some warmth of imagination, but still with the greatest submission to strict justice, I would seat him on his throne, with a ray of glory about his head, his ermine without spot or blemish, his balance in his right hand, mercy on his left, splendour and brightness at his feet, and his tongue dispensing truth, goodness, virtue, and justice to mankind.

“Upon the whole to complete his character, in a private capacity, he was a kind husband and tender father; a true friend and generous master, liberal and compassionate to all. Thus accomplished, and thus adorned, he ended his days in the highest station; full of honour, glory and riches; to the great grief and concern of his king and country, who were at once deprived of so great a blessing. His entrance upon the stage of business was with great applause; and what is very rare, his going off was with greater. If to pursue wisdom, to execute justice, to entreat of heaven a constant serenity of mind, and a spirit to discern and judge uprightly of the laws of God and man, can merit applause, doubtless, the memory of this great man will be preserved with the blessings and praises of posterity.”

Rectors.

JOHN FITZWARIN, the first rector, was presented by William Fitzwarin, ex consensu Agnetis rix suæ, 1219.

PHILIP DE CROFT was the successor, being appointed in 1226, on the same presentation.

Vicars.

ROBERT DE FOSTON, the first vicar, died in 1309; and was succeeded by RICHARD DE SCHIRINGTON, presented 12 February 1309, by the prior and convent of Ravenstone.

JOHN AUBEL DE HAVERSHAM, presented 1 June 1340, on the same presentation. He died, and

ADAM DE CAUNBRE was presented 1 July 1349.

JOHN COOK was presented 2 March 1398. He exchanged for Thornhaugh Chantry, in Northamptonshire, with

ROBERT FAUCONER, 28 April 1402; who exchanged with

WILLIAM WASHFORD, 30 August 1405, for Packington, in Litchfield Diocese.

JOHN BUCKENHILL was presented 22 September 1408, and died vicar 1409. He was succeeded by

JOHN WYLYTON, instituted 31 August 1409.

ADAM resigned in 1420. He was succeeded by

JOHN MARTEN, presented 15 June 1420.

JOHN PATTESHALL resigned 1457; and was succeeded by

JOHN ANDREW, who was presented 26 June 1457.

WILLIAM ARDEN resigned 1472. He was succeeded by

JOHN FYTON, presented 22 June 1472. He died; and

EUSTACHIUS BERNARD, prior of Ravenstone was presented 8 March 1478. On his cession,

RADULPHUS BLASE seems to have succeeded in this vicarage; and afterwards in the priory. He was presented 25 May 1483. On his cession,

- JOHN CAREN was instituted 14 February 1484. At his death, JOHN GREGORY was instituted 23 October 1492. His name seems also to have been Barnabe, as he occurs vicar by that name in 1517.
- RICHARD TRUER succeeded about 1519, but resigned.
- JOHN HOLDEN was presented by the convent of Ravenstone, as were all his predecessors, 27 November.
- JOHN KING was presented by O. Elizabeth 1575. He was buried here 20 March 1577.
- THOMAS PHILIPS was instituted 7 May 1577, on the Queen's presentation.
- HENRY TRICKET was presented by the Queen 1593. He was buried here 1 June 1603.
- JOHN WRIGHTIE, B.D., was presented in 1603, by the Lord Chancellor. At his death, JOHN JOHNSON, B.A., was presented 23 August 1603, by James I.
- WILLIAM HOUGHTON was presented 1623, by the King; as was THOMAS PENN, in 1626. He was buried here in January 1631.
- NICHOLAS CONEY succeeded in 1632, being instituted 22 November of that year. He was buried here 19 November 1652.
- WILLIAM SHEPPARD subscribes himself vicar 1663.
- NICHOLAS FRENCH was presented 26 December 1666, by the King's title.
- ROBERT ESKRIGG, B.A., was presented 20 December 1685, by Heneage Lord Finch, of Daventry, Chancellor of England. He was buried here 27 September 1721; and was succeeded by
- THOMAS SEATON, instituted 9 November 1721, on the presentation of Daniel Earl of Nottingham. He died 18 August and was buried here 22 August 1741.
- JOHN WALLER, B.A., was presented by the Earl of Winchelsea, and inducted 26 April 1742. He died 15 December 1745, and was buried here.
- BARTON BURTON was inducted 28 January 1746. He was a well meaning, but absurd kind of man, with a strong methodistical turn which nearly shattered a weak understanding. He preached a ridiculous visitation sermon at Newport Pagnell, of about an hour and quarter long, which all the persuasion of his friends could not prevent being made public, by printing it. He died in Rutlandshire, in 1764.
- ROBERT CHAPMAN, M.A., was presented by Lord Winchelsea in September and inducted in October 1764. The Earl would not give him this living, of about £100 per annum, till he had resigned that of Wolston, of about £40 per annum, which his lordship procured for another of his dependants, Mr. Drake, curate at Thorney, and son to a late rector of Milton Keynes; so much opposed was he to pluralities in the church. He died, and was buried 21 October 1715, at Ravenstone.
- THE HON. HENRY FINCH, M.A., was presented 17 March 1786, by the Right Hon. George, Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. He resigned in 1788; and was succeeded by
- THE HON. ARCHIBALD HAMILTON CATHCART, M.A., on his resignation, he was succeeded by
- WILLIAM GOSFREY, B.A., instituted 21 September 1823, on the presentation of George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, K.G.. He was a native of this village. He married the daughter of Thomas Greaves, lord of the manor of Haversham. He died, and
- GEORGE FRAZER MATHEWS was instituted 1860. He was party to a triangular exchange, the third party was
- PHILIP HENRY HARRISON who was instituted in 1866.
- HUGH ALLEN, D.D., was presented in 1872. He exchanged for the living of Winterbourne Gunner, with
- EDWARD LEWIS LLOYD who was presented 1898.

The Church.

The external appearance of Ravenstone church, All Saints, is certainly more possessing than the interior, but the whole edifice is strikingly plain and singularly destitute of every kind of ornament. One of the chief defects is the great blank wall that is supposed to have been substituted, at a comparatively recent date, for the north aisle that had

probably fallen into decay ; but many other characteristics are wanting that are possessed by more favoured churches in our neighbourhood : here you will find no elaborate cornices, and no grotesque gargoyles. We do not mean to aver that Ravenstone church is devoid of interest, for in spite of its lack of the picturesque it has many pleasing associations. It is an ancient edifice situated on a slight hill, at the north-eastern extremity of the village, and near to the site of the old priory. It was built probably in the XIIth century, and has a west tower, nave, south aisle, chancel, and south chapel. The general style of the building is very Early English, but most of the windows are modern. The clerestory of the nave is Perpendicular. The exterior is remarkably plain, and the whole structure finishes with plain parapets. The tower contains a clock and three bells inscribed

First : NEWCOME MADE ME A° 1616.

Second : **ΑΥΘ : ΜΑΡΙΑ**. This is a XIVth century bell. There is a similar one at Stoke Hammond.

Third : GOD SAVE OVR KING 1625 I K

There is no porch over the doorway, which is on the south side. This doorway is straight headed and above it is a sundial. The roofs are covered with lead. The interior was thoroughly renovated in 1885. The nave and aisles are divided by three semicircular arches resting upon what may be considered late Norman pillars. There are six double-light windows in the clerestory. The ancient oak roofs of the whole building are not concealed. The pulpit, reading desk, and high backed pews are all of oak, the former being hexagonal, and having above it a massive sounding board. The font is a large cylindrical basin, externally ornamented with a series of rude arches having trefoil heads. It has an oaken canopy cover. The tower arch is sculptured with the dog-tooth ornament. The chancel arch is semicircular. The aisle is lighted by the plain windows, two containing stained glass, the gift of Mrs. Godfrey in memory of the late vicar, and the other to the memory of William Godfrey. The chancel is lighted by a three-light east window. All round the walls of the church runs a wainscot of considerable height. In the south wall of the aisle is a piscina and a two-seat sedilia. The floor of the chancel is paved in lozenges of black and white, and the nave in white stone. The chapel on the south side of the chancel contains two square-headed windows of six lights each and it communicates with the chancel by a semicircular arch. This is the burial place of the family of Finch.

Here is an altar-tomb, covered with a very large slab of jet, on which lies the statue of the Lord Chancellor Nottingham, in his robes of office, his head towards the east, under a canopy or pavilion, supported by joint Corinthian pillars of black marble, with white bases and capitals ; the drapery dependent from the frieze being drawn back to display the effigy. At the ends of the tomb, these arms ; Arg. a chevron between three griffins passant S. Behind the shield, the paraphernalia of the Great Seal, its bag and mace in saltire, very finely cut in white marble. Motto : *Nil conscire sibi*. On the south side of the frieze,

arms, quarterly 1 and 4, *Finch*, as above; 2 and 3, Gu. three lioncels rampant or. Crest, a griffin passant. Supporters, on the dexter side, a lion rampant; on the sinister, a griffin; both gorged with a ducal coronet or. On the respective basements of the columns which support the canopy, and earl's coronet, surmounting branches of myrtle and palm. On one side of this splendid monument is a very long inscription in Latin, and on the other an inscription in English. This nobleman died in 1682, aged 61 years, and was buried here. Many members of the same family have been interred in the vault under this chapel; but no monumental record appears to have been erected for any one of them besides the chancellor.

Against the south wall is an achievement of the arms of George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, in two shields, and upon the screen dividing the chapel from the aisle hangs an old copper engraving of the great chancellor.

In the nave is a plain tablet of stone to the memory of the Rev. Robert Chapman, 21 years vicar of this parish, who died in 1785, aged 79 years, and was buried in the adjoining church-yard. Near the pulpit is a mural monument inscribed to "Matha, for 28 years the faithful and affectionate wife of William Godfrey, M.A., vicar of this parish, who died 29th September, 1854, aged 53." There are also tablets to the memory of Samuel Godfrey and his wife Elizabeth.

On the east side of the church-yard was a plain upright head-stone, bearing a long inscription in Latin, to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Seaton, a former rector, who died in 1741, aged 57. He was the founder of the annual Seatonian Prize Poem on a given religious subject. The prize consists of the rent of an estate of about 28 acres of land at Kislingbury. Under the chestnut trees, in the west corner of the south side of the churchyard, is one of those curiously decorated stones so often found in the neighbourhood. This has depicted upon it an altar tomb, from the end of which is emerging a skeleton with a spear in its hand, in the act of striking a heart that lies upon the top. Above this is an angel sounding the last blast upon the trumpet, and upon each side stands a guardian angel. The inscription is too far decayed to see to whom this antiquity was erected.

Opposite the principal entrance to the church is the base of an ancient stone cross.

The present approximate value of the living is £104, the real nett amount £95.

Amongst the entries in the register, which dates from 1568, are the following:

Miss Henrietta Finch, fourth daughter of the Hon. William Finch, buried 25 March 1818; died at St. James's Palace, London, aged 61.

Jane Finch, wife of George Finch, Esq; died in Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London; buried 21 Feb. 1822, aged 19 years.

The Fire.

On Friday, 24 September 1897, a most disastrous fire consumed eight cottages as well as the farm buildings of William Godfrey Eyles and

Robert Dawkes. Undoubtedly the cause was an oversight in not noticing the way the wind blew, which was blowing quite a gale. The allotment holders, who had consigned their corn to Mr. Eyles's barn were in the act of thrashing it out with the steam engine, which was placed on the windward side of the thatched building. From this the sparks evidently ignited the roof, and on such a day nothing could prevent it from spreading. From the roof to the large rick in the yard, then Holloway's house and simultaneously Dawkes's farm and cottages adjoining, and the cottages at the corner of the road were ablaze.



HOLLOWAY'S HOUSE.



DAWKES' FARM, &c.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the tenants were not insured as by this so much sympathy was shown that money and clothing came in to such an extent that enabled all to be more than fully recompensed for their loss. The subscription in aid of the sufferers was headed by Mr. Bucknell, of Tyingham House, with a donation of £100. On the Saturday and Sunday following, the scene of destruction was visited by thousands of people, and Mrs. Eyles, together with willing helpers, collected a goodly sum from the sympathising sight-seers in aid of those who had become destitute by the conflagration.

STOKE GOLDINGTON.

TOCKES, as termed in the Norman Survey, is a large and pleasantly situated village upon the Newport Pagnell and Northampton road. It is bounded on the north, by Northamptonshire; on the west, by Ravenstone and the river Ouse; on the south, by Gayhurst; and on the east, by Hanslope. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west from Newport Pagnell, 4 miles east from Olney, and 10 miles south-east from Northampton. It is in the same jurisdiction as the previously mentioned parishes.

The north end of the village, near and around the church, seems to have been the original site, for upon several occasions, when excavations have been made, foundations of buildings have been found. There is, too, a remnant of the old manor left standing in the farmhouse near the church. In the gable of this house are two good three-light mulioned windows, and one of two lights, which shows the noble pile it was when in its glory. Surrounding this farm are traces of a moat, and there are the usual fishponds adjacent, in the Home close. The land close by is known as Stoke park, whether this is the park belonging to Gorefields, which is most likely, or the manor near the church history is silent.

Abundance of oyster shells are found in the arable land; and it is remarkable that none of them are flat, but all nearly of similar shape, with so deep a convexity, that when two are found united they are frequently almost spherical. Fine specimens of these massive fossil shells measure four inches in diameter. On the north of the village is a Roman road, on which is a steep ascent, called Augur's or Orgar's Hill.

Of the state of this village, and its immediate neighbourhood, in 1773, the following account is preserved in a publication by one of its worthy ministers, Thomas Scott:

"The country is pleasant, the village large and populous; but the people, poor, ignorant, and idle. The highest wage of the labourer, in harvest time, is only $1\frac{1}{6}$ per day, without meat. Half of the inhabitants have little more knowledge, save the art of lace-making, than they were born with. There are no schools for the poor; and they have no means of instruction but at church, where the greater part never come. Those that have any religion, are almost all methodists, and fanatics of one sort or other. Taking the whole country, I think it remarkably poor and ignorant."

Since the period when these remarks were made things have changed and considerable improvements have taken place. The farm labourers' wages, although none too high, have considerably increased; and the principal farmers, Messrs. Whiting Bros., are the largest and most progressive in the county. On the village green stands the National

School equipped with every modern appliance for the education of the young. The lord of the manor, James William Carlile, erected a Reading Room, in 1885, for the improvement and amusement of the villagers. The commodious Congregational Chapel was erected in 1819. The hostelrys are the Lamb, the White Lion, and the White Hart, and at Eakley Lanes, the hamlet, there is the Coach and Horses. The population in 1891 was 767; the area is 2,352 acres.

In April of 1866, this village, like the whole neighbourhood, was the scene of the terrible cattle plague that devastated the farmers but added wealth to many of the local butchers who were all ready to buy the plague-stricken cattle for, in some cases, a few pence, and after dressing up the carcase, as the trade can, sent them up to the London market and received an enormous profit.

This village boasts of containing the largest walnut tree in England. It is situated in the grounds belonging to the rectory, and is of enormous height and covers a large area.

Manorial History.

The lands of William Peverell, in Stoke Goldington, as recorded in the Conqueror's Survey, are described in Bonstou Hundred as a manor holden under him by Drogo, containing three hides and three virgates of land. There were four carucates of land. There were four carucates; in the demesne two; and five villeins, with four bordars, having two carucates. There were two servants, four carucates of pasture, and woods for two hundred hogs. It had been formerly, and was then estimated at £4. This manor, Gueth, the Countess, had holden.

The manor of the Peverells passed to the Barentines; and was by that family granted, in 1345, to the priory of Ravenstone, by Drugo Barentine, who seems to have possessed one turn in three to the right of patronage of the church. The demesne, which had thus belonged to Ravenstone priory, was estimated at about £200 per annum; when it was at length purchased by Dr. Bushby's trustees, and, with the manor of Willen, added to the doctor's charity; but the lay patrons contested the rights of the priory; and it is presumed that the latter, after having kept the advowson during about two turns of presentation, was induced to relinquish it to the lay patrons, when the advowson was given to Cardinal Wolsey by Henry VIII.

Peter de Goldington, 1273, having then holden lands and tenements in Cotes, in Northamptonshire, Goldington, and Ravensthorpe, of the king *in capite*, and dying without heir-male of his body, left three daughters, his co-heirs, viz. Dionysia, Matilda, and Isabella. Dionysia married Milo Hastings, Matilda married Alan Fitz Roald, and Isabella married William de Nowers; and a partition was made of the inheritance between them, which was adjudged to William and Isabella.

In 1304, Peter le Botiler of Clifton, gave to Hugh, son of Hugh Wake, and Auderine his wife, certain lands in Clifton Reynes; these being witnesses, Sir Almaric de Nowers, Roger de Tyringham, and John Druel, knights, Ralph de Reynes, William de Olney, &c.

In 1309, John de Nowers, son and heir of Almaric de Nowers, gave

the king 37/6 for his relief for certain lands and tenements in Stoke Goldington, held of the king *in capite*, for the mediety of a third part of a knight's-fee.

1310, the next year, John de Grey, son and heir of Reginald de Grey paid to the king £48/6/8 for his relief, viz., £10 for the manor of Water Eton, held of the king *in capite*, by the serjeancy of being keeper of the the kings gerfalcons (hawks), and extended to £13/15/5 per annum, by Walter de Gloucester, escheator on this side Trent; and five marks for the manor of Waterhall, held of the king *in capite*, by the service of providing one man, fully accoutred with hauberc and lance, to serve the king in Wales, in the time of war, for forty days; and the same manor extended by the said escheator to 110/- per annum.

In 1312, Simon de Arcubus, son and heir of Richard de Arcubus, paid the king £15 for his relief for three knight's fees, holden by him of the king *in capite*, in Eythorpe, in this county, as of the honour of Wallingford, extended in the king's hands.

In 1324, Simon de Drayton holding lands and tenements here, late belonging to Giles, son of Giles Revell, cousin and one of the heirs of Milo de Hastings, gave to the king 12/6 for the third part of mediety of the third part of a knight's fee in Stoke Goldington, which the aforesaid Milo held of the king *in capite*, as of the Honour of Peverell. At the beginning of the reign of Edward III., Simon de Drayton held lands and tenements, formerly of Roger de Botiler, and Margery his wife, one of the three sisters and heirs of Milo de Hastings, and paid the king for his relief 12/6 for the third part of the mediety of a third part of one knight's fee in Stoke Goldington which was holden by the said Milo of the king *in capite*, as of the honour of Peverell. This Simon de Drayton had free warren in Stoke Goldington, and in 1344, had license to bestow a mediety of the manor and the advowson of the church, that he might mortgage twenty acres of land at Bascote, which he had of the gift of Drugo Barentine, to Ravenstone priory. In 1367 a fine of two parts of Stoke Goldington was passed by John de Nowers.

The manor and advowson passed, by the marriage of Joane, daughter and sole heir of Sir John de Nowers, knight, by Alice, his second wife, to Robert Nevill, of the family of that name in Leicestershire in 1408. Sir Robert Nevill died in possession in 1426, and a fine having been passed in 1454, by Sir Ralph Nevill, and his son Robert Nevill, and Joane his wife, which it came, by the marriage of Mary, sole daughter and heir of Michael Nevill, to Thomas Moulsoe, of Northamptonshire, and by Mary, grand-daughter and heir of Moulsoe, to Everard Digby of Stoke Dry, Rutlandshire, afterwards knighted. His grand-son, John Digby, leaving only two daughters, his co-heiresses; their husbands, in or about 1704-5, sold this manor and advowson to George Wrighte, of Gayhurst, with which inheritance it subsequently descended. The land of the Bishop of Constance, as recorded in the Domesday Survey, in Bonstou Hundred, is thus described: In Stockes, a certain Anglicanus (Englishman) held of the bishop one hide and one virgate. There was one carucate; and one plough is kept, with four bordars; one carucate of pasture; wood for fifty hogs;

valued at 20/-; when he first held it, 10/-; and in the time of King Edward, 20/-. This land, two thanes held for two manors; and one of them held two virgates and a half, and could sell it.

The Advowson

was adjudged to belong to the owners of Gayhurst lordship; for although the heirs of the Barentines, who had obtained the lands of the priory of Ravenstone, in 1344, had one turn in three of the presentation, it was so contested by the lay patrons, that they appear to have maintained their right only for one turn; and a grant of the advowson being made to Cardinal Wolsey, by Henry VIII., a fine which had been passed by Sir Ralph Nevill and Robert Nevill and Joane his wife (1454) was confirmed by that grant, and the patronage subsequently passed.

In 1521, Michael Nevill died in possession of Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington manors and advowson; and Queen Elizabeth demised to Sir Henry Berkely, the manor and site of Ravenstone priory, and the manor of Stoke Goldington, for 21 years, at a rent of £73/13/8.

It was returned, by an inquisition in 1622, that William Moulsoe died 20 October 1602, and left issue Mary, his daughter and heir, married to Everard Digby, son and heir of Everard Digby, of Stoke Dry, in Rutlandshire; and that he was in possession of Gayhurst manor and advowson, held of the manor of East Greenwich; and of Stoke Goldington manor and advowson, held of the same manor.

In 1736, George Wright, then lord of the manor, obtained a license from Richard Lord Bishop of Lincoln, for the annexation and consolidation of the church of Stoke Goldington with that of Gayhurst; since which period, the same incumbent has been presented conjointly to both livings by the patron for the time being.

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1771, for dividing the open and common fields, and other commonable lands and grounds within the liberties of Stoke Goldington, when, by the award of Job Baseley, of Priors Marston, in Warwickshire; Thomas Harrison, of Stony Stratford; and John Franklin of Gayhurst, both in this county, an allotment was made to the Rev. Robert Dowbiggen, the rector of Stoke Goldington, in lieu of and in compensation for his glebe land and common right thereto belonging, of 42 acres 3 roods 10 perches; in lieu of great and small tithes within the said open fields, another plot of 126 acres 1 rood 21 perches; and another, of 10 acres 1 rood 15 perches; altogether, one-seventh part of all the common fields of Stoke Goldington, excepting the aforesaid glebe; and also in lieu of great and small tithes or composition, for certain messuages, gardens, orchards, etc., containing 24 acres 1 rood 20 perches, exclusive of woods; and also for glebe land lying in the old inclosures, 36 acres 1 rood 3 perches; besides an allotment to George Wrighte, of 788 acres 1 rood 7 perches, for his share in divers houses and small portions of land, amounting to about 1 acre 2 roods 15 perches, to be exchanged with Mr. Wrighte, or his personal representatives; and in default of heirs male, to be empowered to make such changes and settlements, as may appear

necessary to render the same perfectly good and valid. The quantity of land assigned by the award was, by admeasurement, about one-seventh part of 1,272 acres, or 34 perches.

The living is a rectory, valued in the King's Books at £14/6/3, and now worth, approximate value, £375, but net value £279. The glebe land consists of 330 acres.

The Rectory

is a handsome building of local dressed stone with plain tiled roof, in beautifully laid out, and well-kept grounds. The entrance to the hall being by a porch supported by massive round pillars with floriated heads and around the interior is a Latin inscription. The ancient rectory was pulled down and the present structure was built by the present incumbent, the Rev. Charles Jerdein, M.A.

Rectors.

ROBERT DE NOTTINGHAM was presented in 1233, by Peter de Goldington. GIFFARD DE TYRINGHAM resigned in 1319; and was succeeded by THOMAS DE TYRINGHAM, who was presented by John de Nodariis or Nowers, 11 January 1319. On his resignation, JOHN BALLARD was presented in 1375 by the prior and convent of Ravenstone, which had, in 1344, obtained the advowson. However, the following year, on the death of the rector. JOHN WENDORE was presented by the prior and convent; but his appointment was resisted by the lay patron, Sir John Nowers, which was subsequently set aside by the bishop; when JOHN PASSLEWE was presented 20 December 1376, by Sir John Nowers, who had thus recovered his right of presentation. His successor was JOHN AUBYN, presented 21 October 1381, by Sir John Nowers. He exchanged for Walton, juxta Fenny Stratford, of which he had been before rector. ROBERT LAZY was admitted 20 December 1386, on the presentation of the convent of Ravenstone. He resigned in 1388; and was succeeded by JOHN AMERY, presented 22 April 1388, by Sir John Aylesbury, lord of Milton Keynes, Henry Bydall, rector of Haversham, and John son of Richard Doe, of Olney, who were patrons by feoffment of Sir John Nowers. His successor was THOMAS HANDYE; admitted on the same presentation; on whose resignation, in 1447, he was succeeded by GEOFFREY CASSELL, or CASTELL, who was presented by John Mortimer, of Grendon, on the title of the convent of Ravenstone; but resigned in 1461. WILLIAM RADCLIFF succeeded 29 July 1462, on the presentation of Robert Nevill, lord of Gayhurst. On his cession. ROGER LOGERDEN succeeded 23 May 1472, on the same presentation. He died; and QUINTUS WISTBORNE was presented in 1504, by the convent of Ravenstone. THOMAS SPARKE occurs rector in 1505; but resigned the following year, for RICHARD HAVERDEN, LL.B., was presented 25 January 1506, by Michael Nevill, lord of Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst. He died in 1518; being also rector of Sherington; and was succeeded by RICHARD BIRDSALL, presented 27 October 1518, by the same patron. JOHN ARAS was styled minister in 1534. He is supposed to have been curate to Birdsall; for it was returned, in 1541, that Richard Birdsall resided at Northampton. He died in 1549. WILLIAM WAREN was collated by the bishop, on a lapse, 8 January 1549. His successor was HUMPHREY DOLEMAN, instituted in 1557. WILLIAM YEOMANS succeeded 8 August 1560, on the death of the last incumbent, not named on the presentation of Francis Nevill. He obtained license, 22 February 1570, to marry Joan Pigot. He died in 1613; and was succeeded by

VALENTINE LANE, B.D., presented 22 April 1613, by Richard Lane, of Great Linford, yeoman, by virtue of the advowson being granted to him for his turn. He died, and was buried 22 March 1624, at Dodford, in Northamptonshire, where he was also vicar.

ANTHONY MORGAN, S.T.P., was presented 26 April 1625, by the crown's title; but it seems to have been set aside for

RICHARD HOLMES was presented the same year, by Sir Kemeln Digby.

WILLIAM BEESLEY succeeded in 1628. He was turned out of all his benefices in 1643; among which, was the mastership of St. John's College, Cambridge.

JOHN HILLERSDEN, B.D., instituted in 1644. He had been during a few years, rector of Castle Ashby; and held this living until his death, in 1654. He was twice married; and by his second wife Mary, who was only daughter of William Johnson, of Olney, left a son, Edward Hillersden. He was also archdeacon of Buckingham. On his cession,

EDMUND BUTTS was instituted 27 November 1684. He died in 1701; and was buried here.

THOMAS REMMINGTON, M.A., instituted 5 May 1702, on the presentation of Sir John Conway, Bart., and Richard Mostyn. He died in 1736; being succeeded by

JOHN DABBS, M.A., instituted in 1736-7 on the presentation of George Wrighte. He was also rector of Gayhurst; and dying, was succeeded by

JOHN DEANE, 10 August 1750, on the presentation of the consolidated rectories of Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington, of George Wrighte. At his decease, he was succeeded by

PULTON FORESTER, D.D., presented 16 November 1759, by the same patron. He was archdeacon of Buckingham, and chaplain to the king. He was succeeded by

ROBERT DOWBIGGEN, M.A., presented 16 April 1766. He was sub-dean of Lincoln. He died in 1794, and was buried here.

THOMAS SCOTT, the commentator, was ordained curate of this parish together with Weston Underwood in 1772. He was born 4 February 1746-7, answering, since the change of style to 16 February 1747, at a small farmhouse at Braytoft, in Lincolnshire; about six miles from Skegness. His father was a grazier, whose circumstances were very narrow and who for many years struggled with urgent difficulties. He ultimately rose above them and lived in more comfortable circumstances. Thomas, the subject of this comment was the tenth of thirteen children. After being taught to read fluently by his mother, he was sent to a school at Burgh, two miles off, as a day scholar, where he learned the first elements of Latin. At the age of eight he was sent to Bennington, a village four miles north of Boston, where his father had a grazing farm, that he might attend a school there, kept by a clergyman. Here he remained two years, till the age of ten, when he was sent to Scorton, one hundred and fifty miles from Braytoft, for five years, where his deceased brother had been educated. His conduct, at this period was as immoral as want of money, pride, and fear of temporal consequences and a natural bashfulness, would allow it to be. There was no fear of God before his eyes; no restraint from the thought of any relations watching over and approving his conduct; no want of most vile examples and prompters; and little fear of detection by the master. In one instance, however, this latter confidence failed him, and he was put to shame before the whole school for robbing an orchard. On his return from Scorton in June, 1762, he spent his time in visiting his friends and relations up to September of that year, when he was apprenticed to a surgeon at Alford, about eight miles from Braytoft, in whose employ he so misconducted himself that his indentures were cancelled and he was sent home, where he had to do the most laborious and dirty work on the farm. In this occupation he had the society of people of the lowest station of life and with their low-lived riots he was often connected causing a further breach in his relations towards his father. He put up with this drudgery till April, 1772, when in some dispute at home, he hastily threw aside his shepherd's frock and departed, vowing never again to resume such employment.

Wending his way to where his brother lived he called on the clergyman of the parish and expressed a wish to study for the ministry. This surprised the min-

ister who had only known him as a shepherd, but on finding that he was well acquainted with Greek and Latin, promised him his assistance, which led to his becoming ordained by the bishop of Lincoln on 20 September 1772, and gaining the curacy of Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood, at an annual income of fifty pounds, with some trilling additions. At a christening party here, he became acquainted with a Miss Jane Kell, whom he married, 5 December 1774. Within a few months after his marriage, he was led unexpectedly by the Reverend Mr. Chaplin, vicar of Ravenstone, to change his curacy for that place to which he went in 1775, and held the same for two years.

In the spring of 1777, he removed to "The Lodge," Weston Underwood. And from here, dated 26 February 1779, we have the publication of his "Force of Truth."

On the removal of John Newton to London, he proposed to Scott the idea of accepting the curacy of Olney, which was not entertained at the time by the latter.

The following events, which occurred between the time of the proposed removal to Olney being abandoned, and that of its being subsequently carried into effect, show Scott more as a physician than as a divine.

Just before Newton left Olney, the small-pox made its appearance, and in a considerable measure through the intractable behaviour of the inhabitants, great mortality prevailed. Through negligence the disease was communicated to Ravenstone, and a poor woman discharging her duties as mid-wife became infected. After a short but painful illness, she died without any eruption appearing, and, being assured by the apothecary, who attended, that it was not a case of small-pox, Scott preached a sermon to a large congregation, the corpse being in the church, during the service. Soon after, every person who had attended her, in her illness and who had not had small-pox, was taken ill with symptoms of that disease. Under these circumstances Scott not being satisfied with the local apothecaries, called in Doctor Kerr, a surgeon in the army, and under him, he says, "I was physician,, apothecary, and almost nurse, I inoculated none, but some inoculated their neighbours, and I subsequently directed their proceedings."

"Soon after these events a circumstance took place at Stoke, with which I was in some measure concerned (though not then connected with the parish), and which appears to me to suggest important caution. A baker allowed a poor man, his customer, with a large family, to run into his debt to the amount of ten pounds, and then arrested him for the money, foolishly supposing that the overseers would pay it, rather than suffer the man to be thrown into prison. They, of course, disappointed his expectation: the debtor was sent to Aylesbury gaol; where the gaol fever then prevailed. He took that dire disease. His wife went to see and nurse him; he died; she returned home, sickened, and died; the malady spreading in the village, sparing the children, but proving fatal to the parents. The neighbouring apothecaries in vain attempted to stop its progress. I also ventured into the recesses of misery and infection, and in a few instances tried my medical skill, as well as gave spiritual counsel. But I soon found that the case baffled all my efforts. I believe forty children had been bereft of one parent, and nearly twenty of both. I knew the overseer: I went to him, and remonstrated with him, on the grounds not only of mercy and humanity, but of policy; and succeeded in convincing him, that no medical expense which could be incurred was likely to burden the parish a tenth part so much, as this fatal progress of the disease was doing. I prevailed with him therefore to send immediately for Doctor Kerr, who came and spent nearly a whole day in the service; and he laid down such rules for the management of the patients, that not one afterwards died, the disease was speedily extirpated."

At the time of his removal to Olney in 1711, it was a much divided place; the people were full of religious notions and it was therefore not a very unwilling scene for his ministerial services. After four years at Olney he was appointed as chaplain of Lock Hospital, at an annual salary of eighty pounds, during which time he resided for twelve months at number 16, Hamilton Street, Piccadilly, since transformed into Hamilton Place; and then at number 2, Chapel Street,

Upper Grosvenor Place. It was during the time he occupied this position that it was proposed to him to write the "Commentary." His embarrassments and losses upon its publication caused him considerable anxiety, and although during his lifetime one hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred pounds, had been expended on the purchase of the English and American editions, the author had received nothing as reward for all his labour.

On July 22, 1801, he was instituted at Buckden to the living at Aston, where he erected a parsonage house, there not being a suitable one, to which he removed in the spring of 1803. At Aston he became the successful tutor to several who were preparing under the Church Missionary Society to go out as missionaries. This service he continued about the space of seven years, 1807-14. Those who came under his instructions in this capacity were several of them Englishmen, who received ordination; but the majority, Germans, in general Lutheran clergymen. The sentiments of grateful and affectionate veneration which they without exception, conceived for their instructor were publicly testified by them, as they took leave of the society to repair to the stations assigned them. The progress which they made in their studies was highly creditable, in some instances remarkable.

The commencement of the year 1818 introduces us to what was the principal employment of his remaining day, the preparation of a new edition of the Bible. After eighteen years of hard and prosperous ministerial work at Aston, he died on Monday the 16 April 1821.

JOSEPH JEKYL RYE, M.A., presented to the rectory of Gayhurst, with Stoke Goldington annexed, 12 January 1795.

BENJAMIN BAILEY instituted 27 December 1819, on the presentation of Anne Barbara Wrighte, of Witheby Cottage, Sidmouth, in Devon. He was also vicar of Dallington, in Northamptonshire; but resigned both livings in 1822.

FIENNES SAMUEL TROTMAN, 9 January 1823, on the same presentation.

HERBERT MORTIMER LUCKOCK, the present dean of Litchfield was presented in 1863. He immediately appointed the Rev. C. Jerdein, of Trinity College, Dublin, his curate. He resigned, and his curate,

CHARLES JERDEIN, M.A., was instituted in 1865, and became the first resident rector for upwards of a century.

The Church,

dedicated to St. Peter, stands on an eminence, on the north-western side of the village. It is an ancient fabric. The roofs of the nave and aisles are covered with lead and those of the chancel and south chapel are tiled. The piers and arches of the nave are Early English. The west tower is embattled and is strengthened by graduated buttresses at the angles, the lower part is Decorated, the windows and upper part are Perpendicular. The five bells are inscribed

First: THOMAS HODGKIN WILL WARING CHVRCHWARDENS
HENRY PENN MADE ME 1707 and there are three illegible coins.

Second, 3rd, 4th & 5th: GOD SAVE KYNG CHARLS 1625.

The last four bells were cast at Buckingham by the celebrated founder, Robert Atton. Tradition says that one of the bells came from the demolished church of Filgrave, if so, it must be the treble which has been recast. The east windows of the chancel and south chapel are good Decorated. The porch is on the south side, within are two stone sediles, and the arch of the inner door has corbals of human heads. Opening into the north aisle is another door, with rows of modern chevron mouldings; and in the west front of the tower is a good recessed pointed-arch door. On each side of the nave are three pointed arches resting on massive circular pillars, with three small

clerestory windows on the south side. The chancel arch is semicircular. The ceiling of the nave is plaster, that of the chancel is unstained pine. The font is Norman. The chancel is lighted by three handsome windows of three lights. The side chapel contains a good piscina. This chapel is the original chancel of the demolished church of Ekeney. It has undergone several alterations at various times and has thus lost the greater part of its ancient appearance. There are memorials in the church to members of the families of Brice, Clifford, Hooton, Hodgskins, etc., as well as some of the former rectors. In the middle aisle is a slab inscribed, "Mary y^e daughter of Thomas and Mary Clifford. She departed this life y^e 9th of December 1710, aged 8 years.

By y^e Great JEHOVAH'S
 Call am I . . . From my
 Parents Bosome here to Lye
 Oh Parents dear, weep not
 but Joy for me . . . I being
 Call'd y^e Lasting Light to See."

In the churchyard, and near the east window, is the head-stone of John Gadsden, who died in 1739, bearing the following,

"This world's a City full of crooked streets,
 Death's y^e market-place where all men meet,
 If life was merchandise that men could buy,
 The rich would always live, the poor might die."

Gorefields,

a place entirely depopulated and of 65 acres in extent, is about a mile and a half west from the church. This was without doubt the stronghold of Stoke and to carry out this idea there is one of the finest moats still in existence which most probably encompassed as strong a castle as that of Lavendon. This moat is not like all the others in the neighbourhood, either dry or partially dry, but is intact and has its full complement of water, however dry the weather may be. There is still the fish pond, but this, though well supplied with water, is not in such a perfect state and the banks have somewhat shelved down. Like Lavendon, there are traces of smaller moats contiguous to the one that surrounded this castle or what other domicile it may have been. History is quiet upon this ancient locality and there is not a vestige of stone-work left above the ground, though probably there is plenty below, as tradition says that this place is connected with Gayhurst house by a subterranean passage. This land was, until the year 1865, extra parochial, but at that date was, by order made of the Quarter Sessions, annexed to the parish.

Eakley Lanes

is said to have formerly been a distinct parish, and had a chapel in which service was held once a month. There are two manors or reputed manors here. One of these, called Wolf's Fields, is the lands purchased by the trustees of Dr. Busby's charities. The other manor,

called Eakley Lanes, was for many years in possession of the family of Lane.

Charities.

Barbara Wright, by her will, proved in 1829, left the parishes of Gayhurst and Stoke the sum of £50. It appears from the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, that a person unknown gave some houses for six poor widows and apprenticing children. Nothing is known of the origin of this charity. This charity has lapsed, owing to the cottages which were not insured, being destroyed by fire on 21 April 1885.



HANSLOPE.

 THE parish of Hanslope, or Hanslap as it was formerly called, is the largest in the Hundreds, being 5,801 acres in extent. It is bounded on the north and west, by Northamptonshire; on the south, by Castlethorpe and Havershaw; and on the east, by Stoke Goldington, Gayhurst, and Little Linford. The London & North-Western Railway traverses it to the extent of 2 miles 2 furlongs 119 yards. This parish became notoriously popular through the disgraceful prize-fight that took place in 1830, between Alexander M'Kay and Simon Byrne, when the former lost his life in a shameful manner by being carried on a man's back (one of his combatant's supporters) head downwards, after being knocked down senseless by his antagonist. To say the least, the followers of this fatal combat were nothing less than fiends let loose. They pillaged the neighbourhood wherever their cowardly spirit would give them confidence, and thus caused the prize-fight of Hanslope to be long remembered. A stone marks the site of interment of this murdered man in the parish church-yard. The population in 1891 was 1,489, principally employed in agriculture and at the Wolverton Railway Carriage Works.

The number of its inhabitants, at the beginning of the present century was 1,275, although chiefly of the lower classes; insomuch as to have been returned (31 July 1802), as containing 800 persons partly, if not altogether, supported by lace making; the children were sent to the lace schools, or employed at home by their parents in this manufacture, from the age of five or six years; and many of them, thus instructed and employed, were at the age of eleven or twelve, able to support themselves. It was then calculated, that the annual profits of the lace trade in this parish, were from £8,000 to £10,000, boys as well as girls, being all taught to make lace; and many of the men, when arrived at maturity, following no other employment. Others found an easy and profitable resource in the lace pillow, when agricultural labour could not be procured; a good lace maker at that time, being able to earn as much as an ordinary labourer, and the employment not being more injurious to health than many other sedentary occupations, except when the lace makers were, to save fire and candle, crowded together in very close rooms, in a stooping posture.

Manorial History.

At the invasion of England by William the Conqueror, *Hammesle*, which then included Castlethorpe, was holden by Aldene, a nobleman, who had been attached to the household of king Edward the Confessor, but was by the Conqueror, bestowed on Winemar, of Flanders, one of his companions.

Here were twenty-six carucates of land. In the demesne, five hides and five carucates of pasture; two ploughs were kept, and four might have been employed. There were thirty-six villeins, with eleven bordars having eighteen ploughs; and to these two more might have been added. There were eight servants, and one mill of 12/- rent; eleven carucates of pasture; and wood for one thousand hogs. It was altogether estimated at £23; when Winemar first held it, £20; in the time of Edward, £24. Aldene, hurscarle, to the king, held this manor, and could sell it.

The time of Winemar's death is not recorded; but in the reign of Henry 1. Hanslope was holden by Michæl de Hanslape who bequeathed this manor, and an only daughter, Maud, to the protection of his sovereign. Michæl de Hanslape was, undoubtedly, a son of Winemar, and inherited his father's property in this county; as did Walter Fitz Winemar the portion which was in Northamptonshire. His arms were Gu. on a bend Arg. three lion's gambes, erased of the *Field*.

The king bestowed Maud de Hanslape, with her whole inheritance, on William Mauduit, Chamberlain of the Royal Exchequer, with all the privileges usually granted to the nobles of the realm. The house of Mauduit was originally of the dukedom of Normandy, where it flourished before the Conquest, under the name of Mauduit, or Malduith, i.e., *ill taught*; and was upon one occasion, written in Latin, *male doctus*. William Mauduit, of this family, who came over with the Conqueror, had seven lordships in Hampshire at the time of the general survey; and was either the same person, or the father of William Mauduit, to whom Henry 1. gave Maud de Hanslape in marriage. The arms borne by this family were different; for William Lord Mauduit, who was Earl of Warwick, temp. Henry III., bore, In a Field Arg. two bars Gu.; but William Lord Mauduit, who was his cousin and contemporary, gave. In a bordure Gu. chequy, Or. and Arg. This William Mauduit died before 1118 leaving issue, by Maud his wife, two sons, Robert and William.

Robert Mauduit succeeded his father in all his lands and lordships, as also in the office of chamberlain; but the confidence reposed in him by Henry 1., having caused him to be one of the lords who were appointed to accompany his children in their return out of France, he was drowned on his passage from Barfleur into England, with those unfortunate princes.

Robert Lord Mauduit having no male issue, William, his younger brother, inherited his estates; and the office of chamberlain was bestowed upon him by Henry Duke of Normandy, afterwards Henry II., with all the lands belonging thereto, both in Normandy and England. After the death of Stephen, this, William obtained from the King, a confirmation of the Chamberlainship of the Exchequer, with livery, and all its other appurtenances. Whom he married, or when he died, has not been ascertained; but he was living in 1165, and made a return of his knight's fees to the king.

Robert Mauduit, the only son mentioned in records, succeeded his father in his lands, and in the chamberlainship; and became the fourth

lord of Hanslope of this family. As an addition to his fortune, Henry II. bestowed upon him the manor of Warminster, in Wiltshire, a lordship of great value, and endowed with many privileges; which gift was afterwards confirmed by a Charter of Richard I. Notwithstanding these favours from his sovereign, after the death of Richard, this Robert Mauduit joined in a confederacy with many of the great Barons, in rebellion against John.

During the contentions of that period, the castle of Hanslope was besieged and demolished by Faulk de Breant; placed into the king's hands, was, by John, in 1206, given to Hugh de Nevill; and Henry III., soon after his accession, conferred Hanslope, and all the other lands and fees of Robert Mauduit, on Henry de Brailrof, during pleasure for his support in war.

However, Robert Mauduit probably made his peace with the king, and had the manor and lordship of Hanslope restored to him in the same year; for in the next following he paid scutage for one knight's-fee and three fourth-parts, which corresponds with the extent of the barony of Hanslope as returned to Henry II., on the assessment of the aid for marrying his daughter. He had married Isabella, daughter of lord Thurston Basset, by whom he had issue, two sons, William and Robert; on the latter he settled the lordship of Warminster, and other lands in Wiltshire and Somersetshire, which

he had received of the gift of Henry II., and died in or before 1222.

William Mauduit, eldest son of Robert, gave securities for the payment of £100 for his relief for his father's lands and offices, in 1222; and thus became, by inheritance, the next lord of Hanslope, and Chamberlain of the Exchequer. The king accepted his homage for the same, and directed livery to be given him of his lands. But he, like his father, took part with the confederate barons, and was among the number of those excommunicated by the pope; yet still persisting in his rebellion, he was in the battle of Lincoln, and was taken prisoner there, the followers of the barons being vanquished and dispersed. After this, he returned to his allegiance, and had his barony and lands restored by the king's favour, and in 1232 bound himself by a special writing to serve the king faithfully all his life, and never again to oppose either him or his heirs; even delivering up his only son William, as hostage for the performance of this engagement. He appears to have adhered faithfully to his promises; for the king afterwards released his son as a proof of his confidence. This William Mauduit obtained a license from Robert Grostete then bishop of Lincoln, to remove his church of Hanslope from some other situation (now unknown) to the spot on which it stands at present; and it is probable, that the chancel was that part of the building first erected. To this William Mauduit, it was, to whom given license to embattle his house at Hanslope, and to make a park, with permission to stock the latter with deer out of Salcey Forest. This William Mauduit married Alice, sole daughter of



Waleran de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, by whom he had issue, his son before-mentioned, and a daughter, Isabell; who became the wife of William Lord Beauchamp, of Elmsley. He died in 1257 possessed of the barony and lordship of Hanslope, and his son, William Mauduit, was thirty-six years old when he succeeded his father. He compounded with the king for his whole relief, for 200 marks, of which, £100 was for his barony, and the remainder for his serjeantry of Chamberlain of the Exchequer; whereupon, the king received his homage, gave him livery of his lands and offices, and allowed him three years for the payment of the money, by annual portions at the Exchequer. He had, before this time, married Alice, the daughter of Sir Gilbert de Seagrave, and was summoned by the king, to attend him in most of his warlike expeditions. In 1262, he succeeded to the earldom and castle of Warwick, as his mother's inheritance (who was the great aunt of the Earl of Warwick, of the family of Newburgh), on the death of John de Plessets, who had held them for life, by the special favour of the king; though his wife, the heiress of that house, had died several years before without issue. In the same year, he did his homage; discharged his releif and had summons, by the title of Earl of Warwick, to attend the king at Worcester, on the feast-day of St. Peter ad Vincula, with horse and arms, to accompany him in his expedition into Wales against Llewellyn ap Griffin, who was then in hostility. And when the king was compelled to relinquish his expedition, by the necessity of repressing a rebellion among the barons, he sent this earl to secure his castle at Warwick, a place at that time, of very considerable importance. But he was taken with his lady by the rebels, in their excursions from Kenilworth, and carried prisoner to the castle there, whence he obtained his liberty, only, by the payment of 1,900 marks, and assenting to the destruction of the walls of his castle at Warwick, the towers only excepted. He died without issue 8 January 1267, leaving William, his nephew, son of his sister Isabell, who had been the wife of Lord Beauchamp, of Elmsley the heir of all his honours and lands.

In 1293, William Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, obtained a grant for a weekly market at Hanslope, on Thursdays, and an annual fair on the festival of St. James (o.s. 13 August) of fifteen days' duration.

In 1424, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick and Albermarle, Lord Despencer and Lisle being captain of Calais, issued his writ or charter to all persons holding offices and lands under him, by knight's service or otherwise, dated at his house or hotel, in London, 14 June 1425; whereby, it appears, that he was then in possession of these lands; and continuing to be vested in the Beauchamps became part of the estate, which in 1487, was, by Anne Countess Dowager of Warwick and Salisbury, surrendered as the manor of Hanslope with Castlethorpe (with Newport Pagnell, and other possessions of that family), to the crown.

In 1553, the king granted to John Duke of Northumberland, *inter al.* the reversion of the manors of Hanslope and Castlethorpe, which had been granted to his dead sister, the Lady Elizabeth, during life; and also the said manors and parks of Hanslope and Castlethorpe.

It was afterwards granted to different branches of the royal family, and formed part of the revenue of Princess Elizabeth, before her accession to the throne.

In 1567, Elizabeth demised to William Crowne, as messuage, tenements, two watermills, two crofts near the River of Hanslope, a malt-mill and meadow, called millne holme, *cum pert.* recited to have been before demised to Robert Matthews, as part and parcel of the manor of Hanslope, called Warwick's land, to the honour of Ampthill belonging from Lady-day then passed, for forty years, at £6/16/8. By patent, 21 July 1576, it was granted for twenty one years, at 39/- per annum, with lands in the occupation of Hugh Wren, at 26/8 per annum, and messuages and lands in the occupation of Thomas Cowper, at 3/6 per annum.

In 1582, Elizabeth demised, in release of a debt of Sir Amias Pawlet, as executor of Hugh, his father, and for services, with divers lands in Woughton, &c., in the occupation of John Disney or Daunsey.

In 1663, this manor was granted in fee, by Charles II., to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, Justice of the Common Pleas; with whose daughter, Elizabeth, part thereof is said to have passed in marriage to William Lane, of Hanslope, son of Richard Lane (who was buried here in 1650); and another part to the family of Foster, through Emma, daughter and sole heiress of John Knight, of Hanslope, by Eleanora, sole daughter of Renburn, or Ramburne de Beauchamp, younger son of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by Katherine, daughter of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.

Tathall End.

A manor, or reputed manor in this parish, anciently belonged to a family deriving its name from, or imparting it to the hamlet; and passed by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, Justice of the Common Pleas, and colonel in the Parliamentary army in the time of the Commonwealth, to her husband, William Lane, of Hanslope; and descending, by an heir female, to Sir William Wake, bart., of Northamptonshire, was sold to Edward Watts, of Hanslope Park, in whose family it still remains. This hamlet is situated about a mile east from the parish church and contains a few ancient farm houses and a few neat cottages. The stables and outbuildings of the ancient mansion were only demolished about fifty years ago.

Ecclesiastical History.

The advowson and patronage having become vested in the crown, absolutely, at the dissolution of religious houses by Henry VIII., the rectory, which had been appropriated to Newark College, in Leicester, was, together with the advowson of the vicarage, bestowed upon the corporation of the city of Lincoln; and the several incumbents were afterwards respectively presented by the said corporation, or their lessees or appointees: and in 1803, on passing an Act of Parliament for the enclosure of Salcey Green and Stocking Green, both portions of this parish, an allotment was made to the impropiators, in lieu of

tithes; as there had been previously, in 1788, when an inclosure of Hanslope was effected; but Hanslope Park and Bosenham Field were not exonerated from the tithes by that Act. The living, at the present time is worth £139.

The old rectory house, now designated the rectory farm, stands on the south side of the church and is built with stone.

The vicarage, formerly known as Hanslope house, is a good stone-built residence and stands a short distance south-east from the church.

Rectors.

THURSTAN BASSET, presented by Sir William Malduit, Knight, 1227.

SILVESTER DE EVERDON, created bishop of Carlisle 1246.

PHILIP LUVAL, presented 6 February 1246, by the same patron.

HENRY DE WENGHAM resigned in 1261.

RICHARD DE HENGHAM, presented in 1261, by Sir William Malduit.

JAMES DE BEAUCHAMP, presented 7 June 1269, by William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

SIMON DE ELLISWORTH, presented 7 September 1293, by the same patron.

PETER DE BLUND, presented 9 April 1297.

THURSTAN DE HANSLAP, presented 30 June 1300, by Guy Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

PETER DE BLUND, presented a second time, 9 July 1301; Thurstan having resigned nine days after his institution.

ADAM DE HERWYNTON, presented 2 October 1316, by Alice Countess of Warwick.

WALTER DE WINDLESORE, presented June 1329, by Thomas de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick.

RICHARD PYRITON exchanged with

MICHEAL DE NORTHBURGH, for the archdeaconry of Colchester, who was presented 2 October 1373.

WILLIAM DE HERMESTHORP, presented 12 February, 1382.

JOHN DE HATFIELD, presented 16 November 1383.

WILLIAM DE MORTON exchanged for a prebend in St. John's College Church, at Chester, with

THOMAS KNIGHT, LL.D., presented 15 July 1395. "He built a famous *spire steeple* here, which is the noted land-mark in all these parts."

JOHN BAYSHAM, instituted 15 May 1414, on the presentation of Richard Earl of Warwick; but he exchanged the following year, with

THOMAS ALDEBURY, for Olney.

NIC. WYMBYSS, instituted 25 March 1419, on the presentation of the Earl of Warwick.

RICHARD MONIER, presented 22 June 1434.

JOHN HURLE died in 1467.

JOHN STONYS presented 15 August 1467.

JOHN MORGAN, LL.D., presented October 1485, by the king.

RICHARD HATTON, presented 26 November 1496.

GEOFFREY WRENN, presented 23 June 1509, by the king.

ROBERT BONE, presented 17 April 1527, by the same patron. He was the last rector; and on his presentation, this became annexed to Leicester Collegiate-Church, to which a license was obtained for its appropriation in 1523.

Vicars.

ROBERT, presented 1250.

JOHN DE HARLISCOT, presented November 1274, by James de Beauchamp, rector of Hanslope.

WARNUS DE HANSLAP, presented April 1278.

JOHN DE VOUSEBY, presented 8 May 1309. From this date the list is imperfect until

THOMAS GRANTHAM, B.A., presented 14 August 1555, by William Rotheram, Mayor of Lincoln.

RALPH SUTTON, presented 28 October 1558.

JOHN SIBSTHANE.

WILLIAM JONES, in 1598, returned to be curate of Hanslap-cum-Castlethorpe.

WILLIAM LINGARD, called minister in 1605.

WILLIAM HOUGHTON succeeded in 1620, and called minister in 1639.

NATHANIEL NETMAKER, presented 14 January 1640; afterwards rector of Pitchcott.

EDMUND LAWRENCE, presented in 1658.

JOHN HATCH, presented 21 March 1663, by the King.

WILLIAM BARTON, presented 24 December, 1666.

WILLIAM WARD, B.A., presented 8 February 1677. In the chancel is a large blue slab to his memory denuded of the brass effigy.

SHADRACH GARMSTON, M.A., instituted 24 November 1714; he died October 18, 1741.

DAVID FOWLER, LL.B., presented 3 April 1742.

GEORGE SKELTON, B.A., presented 22 February 1745, he resigned.

MOSES AGAR, B.A., presented 1 November 1749. In the chancel is a slab inscribed to his memory with the brass effigy torn off.

ROWLAND CURTOIS, LL.B., presented 24 September 1783; but resigned.

HENRY DAVIS was presented 15 June 1786, by the corporation of Lincoln.

WILLIAM SINGLETON, presented 19 April 1806. He resigned, without having any other preferment; and retiring to his native county of Cumberland, died 11 October 1841; and was succeeded by

MATHEW WEBB KEILEY, M.A., inducted 18 January 1839; who died 25 June 1841; and was buried in the churchyard, with a simple head-stone to his memory.

JAMES MAYNE, M.A., inducted 2 December 1841, on the presentation of George Hyde, of Norwich. He was buried in front of the altar.

MARK ANTHONY NICHOLSON was presented in 1851. At his death,

WILLIAM JARDINE HARKNESS was presented in 1892.

The Church,

dedicated to St. James, is a spacious edifice, on elevated ground, erected as before stated, by William Mauduit, who died in 1257. Its component parts are a west tower and spire, a clerestoried nave with side aisles, the north aisle is more extended and is connected with the chancel by a semicircular arch, north porches, and a chancel, with a chapel on the north side. The edifice appears to have been in the Norman and Early English styles; and there are still considerable remains of the former style in the chancel. The "priests' door" on the south side, is very fine and has the chevron and other ornaments in the arch; there are some extensive remains of Norman piers and arches; a good cornice of masks; and the chancel arch is Norman, perfectly plain, and supported on each side by fine piers with good capitals. There are but two Early English windows remaining. The rest of the church is Perpendicular, the best part being the tower and the spire. The upper stage of the tower has good double windows on each face, the buttresses panelled and terminating in good octagonal pinnacles; the flying buttresses have pierced quatrefoils, and the spire has good windows and richly crocketed ribs. This beautiful octagonal spire, which is of Ketton stone, and 180 feet high, is a pleasing object in the view from many miles in every direction. On 23 June 1804, it was destroyed by lightning, and rebuilt by subscription at a cost of upwards £1,000. Some time before the spire was destroyed, the weather-cock broke down, and in answer to an advertisement for a person to replace it, a man named Robert Cadman came and engaged to do the business, and

effected it without apparatus or machinery whatsoever; for the spire being octagonal with crockets or knobs at the angles, three feet asunder, he climbed to the top by means of these crockets, to the astonishment and terror of the inhabitants. He even took up a drum with him and amused himself by beating it; and when he came down he left it behind him. Afterwards, getting intoxicated, he could scarcely be restrained from going up for it in that state in the evening, observing that he was afraid somebody might steal it in the night. The next morning he ascended, and brought down his drum without accident. The spire that Cadman climbed was 20 feet higher than the present spire. The interior of the church received no injury from the accident. The tower contains a clock, and five bells inscribed

First : R. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT 1815. R: ROGERS C WARDEN

Second : HALL MADE ME 1752.

Third : GOD SAVE KYNG CHARLS 1625.

Fourth : GOD SAVE KYNG CHARLS 1626.

Fifth : JOHN KITEL C: W JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1814.

This was cast from the old bell that weighed $18\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and inscribed *Jesus Nazarinus Rex Judcorum. Johannes Goorme me fieri fecit.*

The bells were rehung in 1891, by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, at the cost of £175/13/9, the amount being raised by local public subscription. The porch retains the old stone sediles. The aisles are each lighted by five mullioned windows, all varying considerably in design. One in the north aisle is square-headed and of five lights. The clerestory of the nave is pierced by twelve two-light windows. On the south side of the church is a square stair-turret rising above the elevation of the nave and chancel. The stairs, now bricked up, formerly lead to the pulpit, the rood-loft, and the roofs. Equilateral arches supported by octagonal pillars, divide the nave and aisles, and the open oak roof of the nave has stone corbals with carved angels, bearing musical instruments. Through the tower arch may be seen the western window, and other beautiful arches which support the tower. The body of the church is fitted with high-backed plain deal pews; one, at the east end of the south aisle, is slightly raised above the others and is reserved for the Lincoln trustees. The pulpit and desk are plain, but of oak; and the font is large and modern. The chancel is spacious; the east window contains five lights, with rich tracery in the sweep of the arch. The coloured memorial window, in the chancel, was placed there in March 1884. In the north wall are two aumbries and there is also one in the south wall, and a range of four graduating seats. The roof of oak is open and modern.

In the wall of the south aisle, nearly hid from view by the high pews, is an arch known as an Easter sepulchre. There is also an arch of smaller proportions in the north wall, near the inner door of the porch, which is supposed to be the entrance to a vault that is known to exist in the church yard, and has no memorial.

In the north chapel, now used as a vestry and known as Troughton chapel, is a richly headed piscina in the south wall. The presence of the piscina proves that the place was originally a chapel, and possessed

an altar. This is supposed to be the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, referred to as "the chapel of Our Lady." In this chapel was a large raised altar tomb, bearing a coat of arms and the following inscription, in brass :

WITHIN THE CENTER OF THIS MARBLE STONE
THE BODIES OF MY DEAREST PARENTS LYE,
THEY WERE DEATHS RIGHT HE CLAIMES THEM AS HIS OWNE,
THIRE SOVLES TO HEAVEN, THEIR FAMES ARE MOVNTED HIGHE :
HE TROUGHTON HIGHT, A HAMPDEN SHE BY BIRTHE,
WHOM HEAVEN STOLE HENCE, TOO GOOD TOO LIVE ON EARTH :
YET THIS THEY LEFT TOO THEIR IMMORTALL PRAISE :
THEY LIVD WELL, DID WELL, FVLL OF HAPPIE DAYES.
COMPOSED IN DVETYE BY THEIR BEELOVED SONNE
RICHARD TROUGHTON.

The top blue slab of this tomb now lies in the floor of the north aisle, at the rear of the vault of the Watts' family; other memorials are also recorded to have been in the chapel.

In digging the grave in the chancel for the Rev. Jas. Mayne, in 1851, the sexton discovered a coffin, hewn out of a solid piece of oak, in a most perfect state. He cut it across, and the portion extracted is still kept under the communion table.

The chancel has had the finest collection of brasses of any church in the Hundreds, but now only the bare stones lay as silent witnesses to the memory of the departed and to the desecration of these very interesting antiquities. Two of them appear to have represented ecclesiastics, each with a Gothic canopy above the effigy. These are supposed to have been Thurston Keswick and Peter Blunt. Several stones in the body of the church have lost their brasses. There is near the font, being worn out for want of a more suitable position, the effigy of a child, in brass, in Elizabethan costume having at her feet a tablet inscribed



MARMORE SVB HOC REQVIESCIT CORPVS MARIAE
FILIAE THOMAE BIRCHMORE EXPECTANTIS RESVR :
RECTIONE GLORIAE QVÆ HOC E VITA DISCESSIT
VLTIMO DIE IANVARIJ ANO DOMINI 1602 . CVM
SEXTVM ANNV M ÆTATIS SVÆ COMPLEVERAT.

Christus solus mihi salus.

In the Harleian collection, is an epitaph with these words :

Pray for the soul of Lewis ap Rees Gent. and late Balife of this Towne, & Servant to H. Hen. biii. and of Elizabeth and Agnes his Wifes. He decessid
1 July 1523.

This inscription belonged to the stone in the nave, near the pulpit, and had some of the relations being surviving when the dismal havoc was made of the monuments and brasses in the church, at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, they might have preserved this when the rest were destroyed. On this stone were the effigies of Lewis Rees and his two wives, in brass, with labels, which still remain, issuant from their mouths; on one of the labels is, *Sancta Trinitas unus Deus*; on the other, *Miserere nobis*. A coat of arms on the top sinister side also remains, and is, on a *fesse*, three boars heads caboshed.

In the tower of the church some old-time fire implements are still kept. These are long poles with a large hook upon the top end and at the bottom a large ring, to which they chained horses. In case of fire the hook was placed upon the ridge of the building and the horses were started thus pulling the roof to the ground where it could be better dealt with and lessen the chance of the conflagration spreading.

The church registers date from the year 1570.

In the churchyard is a curious head stone embellished with representations of a set of carpenter's tools in bold relief. This is to the memory of Joseph Cox, sen., who died in 1759, aged 92; also Elizabeth, his wife, who died in 1762, aged 101. Their descendants at the time of her death were 10 children, 62 grand-children, and 102 great-grand-children; in all, 174. Near the wall, on the north side of the yard, is a stone commemorative of the death of the before-mentioned prize-fighter, who terminated his mortal combats in the neighbourhood, and bears the following inscription: Sacred to the memory of Alexander M'Kay, late of Glasgow, who died 3rd June 1830, aged 26 years.

Strong and athletic was my frame;
Far from my native home I came,
And manly fought with Simon Byrne;
Alas! but liv'd not to return.

Reader, take warning by my fate,
Lest you should rue your case too late;
If you have ever fought before,
Determine now to fight no more.

Near the walk to the north porch still remains the base of a cross.

Keswick's Chantry.

In a book of Chantries, in the Augmentation Office, is the following: Thurstan Keswick's chantry, founded to find a priest to sing for the souls of Thurstan Keswick, sometime parson of the said church, and his parents and benefactors; and also to minister to the parishioners of Hanslap as oft as need shall require. The said chantry priest hath no chapel assigned or founded by his composition, but singeth in the chapel of Our Lady in the said parish church, and ministereth to the said parish a persone and the said chantry priest.

The said chantry is of the yearly value of £8/1/6 with 6/8 for the curates mansion; whereof to the king's majesty, for tenths, 14/10; to the king's baylyffe of Hanslap, 5/1¼; to Anthy. Salesbury, for rents

resolut, 2d.; and so remaineth for the priest's salary, with 9d. paid for head-money, £7/1/4½. There is neither goods, catalls, nor ornaments belonging to this chantry, all such necessities being supplied to the priest by the parishioners.

Incumbents of Thurstan Keswick's Chantry.

SIMON DE WESTON, presented by the founder 2 December 1325, the year of his death.

SIMON DE TURNEY, chantry chaplain, died 1349.

WILLIAM DE BROWNEY, presented by the bishop 1349.

ROBERT ARCHER DE CRAULE presented 7 March 1355.

JOHN SYWARD, 2 November 1361, presented by the bishop.

JOHN HAUNKIN, presented 1 November 1371, died 1412.

HENRY NOWERS alias WESTON, presented 13 November 1435. After him, no more admissions are found; but

HUGH WRENNE was chantry priest in 1534, and also at the Dissolution, in 1547; when it was returned that he had £8 coming from the said chantry, and was sixty years of age. He was living in 1553, and then held his pension.

The Village,

which is of considerable size, is distinguished by the lofty spire of its parish church, which is seen from a great distance, and rendered more remarkable by its situation, in a part of the county which is very generally destitute of such conspicuous objects. It is situated 6½ miles north-west from Newport, 5 miles N.N.E. from Stony Stratford, and 4 miles north from Wolverton. The principal part of it, in the vicinity of the church and called Church End, consists of a long broad street in which are some good modern houses of brick; and some very old thatched houses. A detached part of the village called Long Street is about a mile in length, formed by small farm-houses and cottages on each side of the road. Other portions are known as Green End, Pindon End, Bullington End, Hungate End, Salcey Forest or Green, and Stocking Green; and there is a farm known as Woad farm, thus showing that this once important die was extensively cultivated here.

At Green end, in a secluded spot, is a portion of a former mansion—an interesting specimen of a gabled and mullion-windowed house—now occupied as a farm residence. The house was in the form of the letter H. The spacious entrance hall, that formed the centre portion, retains its large stone fire place; there is an immense fire place remaining in the kitchen; and one of the rooms has its old panelling, and above the fire-place, in this room, is a large oil painting of a stag hunt let into the panelling. There are still evidences of both moat and fish pond, the later still retains its water. At Pindon End is a similar farm house, but placed on high ground.

On the site now occupied by the Watts' Arms inn, stood a mansion once the seat of the Pigott and afterwards the Howes family. Traces of the foundations have been found, and the remains of its fish ponds are visible.

The Baptists have two chapels here; one in the village, and the other in Long street. The Wesleyans have also a small chapel.

On a row of cottages in High Street are the arms of Baron Pierrepont at the gable ends, surmounted with a baronet's coronet, and in

the centre of the front is the coat of arms, divided, with the date 1712. These have been taken from a more ancient and important residence than these unpretentious domiciles.

On the gable end of a cottage, on the west side of High Street, is a tablet bearing the date of 1646, and the couplet initials H. N. and A. N. The curious part of this tablet is that the engraver did not know which way to cut the figure 4, so to be on the safe side did it both the right and retrograde (↵) ways.

Hanslope Park

was built by Bassil Brent, who is said to have been so great a breeder of poultry, that at one time he possessed about a thousand hens, which occasioned his being nicknamed "Hen Brent." His heir sold the mansion to George Pierrepont in 1707. Sir Peter Tyrrell, bart., or his representatives, sold the manor also, and principal estate, to George Pierrepont, who 12 October 1714, was created Baron Pierrepont of Hanslope; and dying without issue, 22 May 1715, aged 66, it descended to his next heir, Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingston (the Barony becoming extinct), and was purchased of his representatives, by the trustees and guardians of Edward Watts, then an infant, whose descendant still retains possession. The mansion, which is large and handsome and built of stone, has north and south fronts and is approached by a noble avenue. The park contains about 200 acres.

Charities.

The Feoffec estate comprises 58 acres 2 roods 20 poles of land and several cottages, which according to the Charity Commissioners' report, yields an annual rental of £153/19/0. The income of this charity, together with the "Poors' allotment," is applied, first, in repairs of the cottages and the church, and the remainder after deducting £5 for the Sunday school, is expended on the poor. The feoffees' estate consists of the united bequests of Isabel Barnwell, in 1555; William Fox, either in 1546 or 1646 (both of Hanslope); and a person now unknown. Under an Act passed in 1827, for enclosing Salcey forest, the poor were awarded an allotment of 6½ acres of land in Long Street field, in lieu of a right of gathering rotten wood in the forest. Richard Miles, of Hanslope, who died in 1736, left a yearly rent charge of 2/- a week to be distributed in bread for twelve poor widows. Lucy, Lady Dowager Pierrepont gave £200, the interest to be given to the schoolmaster for teaching a few poor boys. Mary Newman gave by will some lands and tenements for the use of the poor; these let for about £5 per annum.

GAYHURST.

THIS parish, anciently known as Gothurst, is beautifully situated in an extensively wooded portion of the Hundreds. The village is very small, consisting of only a few houses and cottages besides the mansion known as Gayhurst house. This rural spot is being brought again prominently before the public but in a different way, than that of the Gunpowder Plot. The present occasion is through the energy and preserving efforts of the present lady of the house, the wife of William Walter Carlile, M.P., who is endeavoring to create, and extend the sale of the once celebrated Buckinghamshire pillow lace, with great success. The parish is bounded on the north by Stoke Goldington; on the east, by the river Ouse, Filgrave, and Lathbury; on the south-east, by the river Ouse and Newport Pagnell; south-west, by Little Lingford; and west, by Hanslope.

The village situated on the main road from Newport Pagnell to Northampton, is $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles north-west, from Newport Pagnell; 4 miles west, from Olney; and 3 miles east from Hanslope. The population in 1891, was 97; and the area is 960 acres of which upwards of 156 acres are woodland. In this parish are to be found specimens of the snail *Helix pomatia* which were the importation of the celebrated Kenelm Digby, and are noticed elsewhere. There is also a chalybeate spring; but it is neither much noticed, nor used.

Manorial History.

This place was surveyed, at the compilation of Domesday Book, as part of the lands of the Bishop Baieux. They were holden under him by the Bishop of Lisieux, and of the latter by Robert de Nowers, as five hides. There was land for four ploughs; two carucates were in the demesnes; and two villeins held two carucates; two servants, and one mill of $13\frac{1}{4}$ rent; pasture for four score hogs. It was and had been constantly rated at 100/-; and in the time of Edward, at £8. Siric, a man of the Earl of Lewin, had holden this manor in the Saxon times, and could sell it.

Odo, Bishop of Baieux, was made Earl of Kent by his brother, the Conqueror, soon after his successful invasion; and had manors granted to him in most of the counties in England. To this manor of Gayhurst was annexed, that part of the parish of Lathbury, now called Bunsty (Bonestou), from which the Hundred took its name, and which is situated between Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington. So great was the wealth and ambition of the prelate, that he resolved to purchase the Papacy; and, taking advantage of William's absence in Normandy,

he equipped a vessel in the Isle of Wight, for the carrying of his treasures to Rome, and prepared for his embarkation. But William, in the meantime, gaining information of his designs, arrested and made him prisoner when he was about to embark, and sent him in confinement to Normandy, where he continued during the remainder of the Conqueror's reign. When, however, William found his last illness increase, and his death approaching, he was stung with remorse and the injustice and cruelties he had committed; and, in compliance with the superstitious tenents of the age, he hoped to atone for his transgressions by presents to churches and monasteries, and by giving liberty to prisoners. He was prevailed on, though, it is said, reluctantly in his last moments, to give deliverance to his brother Odo, who was consequently set at liberty.

Odo, conscious that he owed his freedom rather to the fears than the love of his brother, eagerly embraced the cause of Robert, Duke of Normandy, against William Rufus, to whom the Conqueror had bequeathed the kingdom of England, to the prejudice of his elder brother; and when Robert formed a conspiracy to regain his inheritance, Odo undertook to conduct it to maturity. The king, however, exerted himself with considerable activity, and defeated the projects of the conspirators, who were soon reduced, and compelled to submit to his mercy. He confiscated their estates, and banished them from the kingdom. Odo died in banishment at Palermo, in Sicily, in 1096, and was buried in the church there.

Whether the estates of the exiled bishop were seised into the king's hands or not, does not explicitly appear; but it is probable that those in the county were not, but were suffered to remain in the hands of the tenants, then in immediate possession; for, in almost every instance, they are respectively found to hold them in the course of the two following reigns. There cannot be any doubt that Gayhurst remained in the possession of the family of Nowers; for in the sixth year of John's reign, Ralph de Nowers is recorded to be "Lord of Gothurst." His widow, Anne, who survived him, presented to the church of Gayhurst in 1227.

Almaric de Nowers, the son and heir of Ralph, was patron of Gayhurst in 1245. He married Sibil, the daughter of Ralph Pigot.

Their son, Sir William Nowers, or de Novariis, was patron of Gayhurst in 1265, and in 1279, gave Willoughby church, in Nottinghamshire, to Worksop priory. He married Isabel, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Peter de Goldington, by whom the manor of Stoke Goldington came to the lords of Gayhurst; and the manors have remained united ever since.

Sir Almaric de Nowers, the issue of this marriage, was representative for the county of Bucks in the parliament held at London in 1297; and in 1300, was summoned to attend Edward I. in his Scotch wars. He died in 1308; and Joan, his wife, died 1310.

Sir John de Nowers, his son and heir, died in 1322, having married Grace, daughter and heir of Robert Fitz Neale, or Nigel, Lord Salden. The inquisition taken after her death, in 1350, sets forth, that she died

in possession of the manor of Salden, certain rents in Beachampton and Great Kimble, the manor of Weston Turville, and lands in Wendover, Wycombe, Hogston, and Great and Little Horwood; and it also appears, from another inquisition, held the same year, that she died in possession of the manors of Stoke Goldington and Gothurst. These lands were subsequently seised into the king's hands, on the pretence that Almaric de Nowers had alienated them to Oliver without the king's license. This license was granted in consideration of Almaric de Nowers yet having £10 yearly in land in Stoke Goldington. Sir John de Nowers did homage in 1308 for his father's lands, and was then twenty-three years of age. He made a settlement of Stoke Goldington and Weston, on his marriage with Grace Fitz Neale in 1317.

Sir John Nowers, his son and heir, controverted the presentation of Stoke Goldington with the prior of Ravenstone, in 1376, and had judgement given for him. He died 1396, leaving Matilda, his widow, surviving, who died in 1427. Sir John Nowers, and Matilda his wife surrendered Gayhurst to the king, 8 March 1369, and received it again on the 11th of April following; the king granting it to the said John and Matilda, and the heirs of their bodies, to hold by the service of half a knight's-fee.

Almaric Nowers, his son and heir, died without issue in 1408; and these manors descended to Joane de Nowers, heir to her father and brother, two other sisters, Agnes and Grace, having become Nuns; and she brought them to her husband Sir Robert Nevill who died possessed thereof in 1426. He was the son of Henry Nevill of Prestwold, Leicestershire, by Joan sole daughter and heir of Walter de Gotham of Norfolk.

John Nevill, the eldest son by this marriage, having died 1433, without issue, Robert Nevill, his second son became heir to his brother. He married Joan who survived him. She married, secondly, one Matthew Jonys, and died 30 August 1512. Michael Nevill, the son of Robert succeeded. He died in 1521, having married Jane who survived him until 1558; and is thought to have afterwards married William White of Caldecote. Nicholas Nevill, the eldest son, succeeded on the death of his father, to the manors of Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington; but he dying unmarried, Francis Nevill (born 1518), the second son of Michael, next succeeded. He also died unmarried, and was buried at Gayhurst 25 April 1581. Mary Nevill, became heir to her father and brother; and married Thomas Moulsho, third son of John Moulsho, of Thingdon, Northamptonshire. After the death of her husband, she was married thirdly, to Christopher Slingsby, by whom she had no issue. This Christopher Slingsby had livery of Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington in her right, in 1581. She survived till February 1609, on the 24th of which she was buried at Gayhurst.

William Moulsho was the only issue of the first marriage; he died 20 October 1601. He married Alice Brian, who was buried at Gayhurst 25 June 1599.

Mary, the only child of this marriage, was married at Gayhurst, 9 February 1596, to Sir Everard Digby, eldest son of John Digby, of

Drystoke, in Rutlandshire.

The family of Digby descended immediately from Almar, who in the Confessor's reign, held three plough lands in Tilton, with *sac* and *soc*, then valued at twenty shillings; and assuming the name of the village, were not unfrequently called Digby de Tilton, gave lands in Billesden and Kirkby Beler, to the lepers of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, which the king confirmed to the brethren of Burton-Lazarus.

In 1234 it was found that lands in Billesden had been conveyed to Robert de Digby, whose heir then held them; and on the aid granted to king Henry III., in 1235, at the marriage of his sister to the emperor of the Romans, one mark was paid for a fee at Tilton, held by Robert de Digby, under the fee of William de Beauchamp. In the Testa de Nevil, Tilton Digby is described as consisting of three plough lands; and Anne, relict of Robert de Digby, held half a fee in Tilton, under William de Beauchamp. This family removed to Digby in Lincolnshire, in 1256, and thence assumed their name, but they used the name much earlier.

Sir John Digby of Tilton, was of great account in the time of Edward I. and II. in their wars. This John Digby, in the 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 32nd and 33rd years of Edward I., was a commissioner of gaol-delivery, and is buried at Tilton. In 1315, John de Digby held a moiety of one knight's-fee, *cum pert.* in Tilton, of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and a moiety of the manor of Tilton of Guy de Beauchamp, by the service of a moiety of a knight's-fee.

Richard Digby, a collateral branch of this family, whose name does not appear in the pedigrees, died in 1379, and was buried in the church at Drystoke, under an alabaster monument; as was also Agnes, his wife who survived him but a few days.

The manor of Drystoke became, afterwards, the property of Robert Digby of Tilton; and, dying before 1413, left it to his son Simon, who died 1418, leaving a son Everard, who acquired the additional name of Greenleaf. This Everard, who was not a knight, married Agnes, daughter of John Clarke, of Whissendine; and possessed the lordships of Tilton and Digby, and the manor of Drystoke. In 1434, he was returned among the gentlemen of Huntingdonshire; from 1447, he was M.P. for Rutlandshire; and was sheriff in 1459; but, 29 March 1361, himself and three of his brethren lost their lives in Townton field, fighting against Edward IV. In 1461, Everard Digby, at his attainder, was in possession of the manor of Tilton; and of 14 messuages, 4 lofts, 24 virgates of land, 24 acres of meadow, 2 acres of pasture, 30 acres of wood, and 10/- rent in Tilton.

Simon Digby, the second son, was knighted in 1477, by Edward IV. who gave him the forestership of Thornwood Forest; but for his services in Bosworth-field, he was in 1485, made, by Henry VII. steward of the lordships of Uppingham, Preston, Barrowden, Esenden, and Greetham, in Rutlandshire. In 1486, he commanded at the battle of Stoke; and, in 1487, the king gave him the manor of Ravisburg in Mitcham, in Surrey; with all the lands in Mitcham, Morden, and Merton, belonging thereto; in 1488, appointed him comptroller of the

petty customs in the port of London, and confirmed to him the for-
 estership of Thornwood ; in 1495, gave him the manors of Finborough
 and Cantelewes in Suffolk, and of Coleshill in Warwickshire ; which
 last, has been the residence of this branch of the family, from which
 the Earl of Digby derives his descent. He was sheriff of Leicester and
 Warwick, 1502 and 1517; and dying 27 February 1519, was buried at
 Coleshill.

John Digby, the third son, was also knighted for his services in
 Bosworth-field ; appointed Knight Marshal of Henry VII's household ;
 sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, 1515 ; of Rutland, 1491, 1517, and
 1523 ; was in the Low Country Wars, 1511, and at the battles of
 Therouenne and Tournay ; he was also captain of Calais ; and dying,
 in 1534, was buried at Melton.

Sir Thomas Digby, knight, the sixth son, was esquire of the body to
 king Henry VII. ; bailiff of Olney ; and commander of Yardley Chase
 and Round Hey, 1492. To Sir Everard Digby, the eldest son, the
 lordships of Tilton and Drystoke were restored by Henry VII. and he
 was made steward of Oakham and Uppingham, and high ranger of
 the Forest of Lyefield, in Rutlandshire. This Everard, who was also
 called Greenleaf, was progenitor of the families of Drystoke and Sandon.
 He was sheriff of Rutland in 1486 and 1499. He died 16 January
 1508-9, and was buried at Tilton. He had issue by Jaquetta, daughter
 and co-heir of Sir John Ellis, of Devonshire, seven sons and four
 daughters, all living in 1509. His eldest son and heir, Sir Everard
 Digby, of Tilton, is mentioned by Leland, among " gentlemen of great
 reputation." He was sheriff of Rutland in 1513, 1518, 1528, and 1532 ;
 and of Leicester and Warwick in 1531 ; continued to use the name of
 Greenleaf ; and in 1523, was captain of the right wing of the English
 army, under the Duke of Suffolk, in France. He married Mary,
 daughter of Sir John Heydon ; and dying in 1540, was buried in a
 chapel on the south side of the chancel at Drystoke church.

Kenelm Digby, his eldest son, was sheriff of Rutland, in 1541, 1549,
 1554, 1561, 1567, and 1585 ; and M.P. from 1547 to 1572. He married
 Anne, daughter of Sir Anthony Cope, knight, of Hanwell, Oxfordshire,
 vice-chamberlain to queen Catherine, wife of Henry VIII. ; and dying
 in 1590, was buried in the chancel at Drystoke. Their issue were
 Everard, Anthony of Alston (who died childless), John of Seaton, and
 Anne, married in April 1567, to Sir Edward Watson, of Rockingham
 Castle. This lady died on the 17th February 1611, having been mother
 of Lewis, the first Lord Rockingham.

Everard, the eldest son, being educated at St. John's College,
 Cambridge, took the degree of M.A., and was fellow of that house, a man
 of great learning, and author of several books. He died at Drystoke
 in 1592 ; having had issue by Mary, daughter and co-heir of Francis
 Nele, of Restwoud, three sons and two daughters ; Sir Everard his heir
 George, John, Mary (married to Sir Robert Wright, otherwise Reeve
 of Thwaite), and Elizabeth. George, the second son, was seated at San-
 don ; and his only surviving child, Jane, was first married to Charles, the
 fourth Lord Gerard, of Gerard's Bromley ; and had an only son, the

fifth Lord Digby ; was married, secondly, to Sir Edward Hungerford, knight, and died in November 1603.

Everard Digby, eldest son, born in 1581, was knighted by James I., at Belvoir, 23 April 1603. He was one of the handsomest men of his time ; and by the accomplishments of his mind, reputed one of the finest gentlemen in England ; he possessed Gayhurst by marriage. He became memorable for the share he had in the Gunpowder Plot, and his sufferings on that account. He was educated with great care, under the tuition of some Romish priests, who gave him those impressions which hurried him on to his fate. He was very early introduced to the Court of Elizabeth, and received several marks of her majesty's favour. On the coming in of James, he went to pay his duty, with others of his religious persuasion, to the new sovereign, and received from him the Order of Knighthood. Notwithstanding these fair appearances, he was drawn in to be privy to the Gunpowder Plot ; and though not a principal actor in that dreadful affair, yet he offered £1,500 towards defraying the expenses of it ; entertained Guy Fawkes, who was to have executed it, in his own house at Gayhurst ; and was taken in open rebellion, with other papists, after the plot was detected and had miscarried. Upon his commitment to the tower, he persisted steadily in maintaining his own innocence as to the plot, and refused to discover any who were concerned in it ; but when he was brought to his trial, at Westminster, 27 January 1606, and indicted for being acquainted with and concealing the Powder Treason, taking the double oath of secrecy and constancy, and acting openly with other traitors in rebellion, he pleaded guilty, and was, on the 30th of the same month, hanged, drawn, and quartered, at the west end of St. Paul's church, London. He left two sons, one, afterwards the famous Sir Kenelm, and John Digby, who was also honoured with knighthood. Burton observes, that he conveyed this manor to his son and heir, in tail ; concerning the wardship of which heir, a question afterwards came on, in 1610, whether it belonged to the king or not.

The following epitaph, written many years after his death, thus mentions him :

Tread lightly, stranger ; 'neath this sacred mound
A Digby sleeps, by purjur'd tyrants sold ;
He only dar'd oppose a tyrant's laws,
And suffer nobly in religion's cause.
Ill-fated Everard, hapless was thy lot,
To perish for a race that lov'd thee not !
Brave noble, thou wert something more than man,
And, Protestants, deny it if you can ?

Sir John Digby, the second son, very readily served Charles I., in whose army he was a colonel, and a major-general in the west of England. He was killed in his majesty's service.

In the person of Sir Kenelm, the family emerges from its misfortunes, and was restored to its former honours, by the uncommon merits of its successor. He was seated at Gothurst, his mother's inheritance, where he was born 11 June 1603 ; and about 1618, was sent to Gloucester

Hall, Oxford, after he had been trained up, under the direction of Archbishop Laud, then dean of Gloucester, in the protestant religion ; but, in 1636, he seceded to the Popish communion, and was placed under the care of Mr. Thomas Allen, one of the most learned men of those times ; who discerning the natural strength of his faculties, directed him to the method of applying his wonderful capacity, which he frequently compared to that of the celebrated wit of Italy, Picus de Miranda. He continued a gentleman commoner at Oxford, more than two years ; then travelled through France, Spain, and Italy ; and at his return, 28 October 1623, was knighted by the king, at Hinchinbroke. In the beginning of Charles's reign, he was made a gentleman of the bedchamber ; was a commissioner of the navy. Some disputes having occurred with the Venetians in the Mediterranean, by which the English trade suffered, as well as by the depredations, of the Algerines, he was appointed, in 1628, commander of a small squadron, destined to the Levant, being then styled "*a secretiori Conclavi ad Carolum I. et in rebus maritimis administrator precipuus.*" He acquired great honours by his gallant behaviour at Algiers, in taking several armed vessels, redeeming many English slaves ; and, 16 June, by bearing up so bravely in the resolute attack of the Venetian Fleet, with a very inferior force, in the bay of Scanderoon. When the civil wars broke out, he shewed himself active for the king ; and in 1639, with Abbat Walter Montagu, was employed by the queen to prevail upon the Roman catholics for a liberal contribution to raise forces against the Scots, for which, and other services, he was imprisoned by the parliament, in Winchester House, London, until released 3 August 1643, upon certain conditions, at the intercession of the queen dowager of France, who wrote a letter with her own hand in his favour ; whereupon he retired to that kingdom ; but returning afterwards to England, to compound for his estate he was, notwithstanding his composition, ordered by the parliament to depart the Commonwealth, and not return without leave under pain of death, and confiscation of his estate. During his exile, being chancellor to Henrietta Maria, the queen mother of England, she sent him envoy from France to Pope Innocent x. ; after which, he is said to have temporized with Cromwell, and endeavoured to promote his interests. This "Magazine of all Arts," or the "Ornament of England," wrote several learned books ; and was a great benefactor to the Bodleian library, by presenting to it in 1633, a collection of more than 200 mss. from Gothurst ; recovered the reputation of his family, and rendered it famous through the Christian world. He returned to England in 1661 ; was appointed one of the council on the first settlement of the Royal Society ; and founded a kind of literary society, at his house in Covent Garden ; where four years afterwards, he died of stone, 11 June 1665, aged 62, and was buried at Christ Church, Newgate Street, London, with his wife, Venetia, daughter and co-heir to Sir Edward Stanley ; to whose memory he had erected a stately altar-monument of black marble, with her bust of copper.

This celebrated lady, who, previously to her marriage, was reputed to have led a life of great licentiousness, was preeminently distinguished

for her beauty and accomplishments. She was likewise kept by Robert Earl of Dorset, as his concubine, who had children by her, and settled upon her an annuity of £500, for which Sir Kenelm, after marriage, sued the earl, and recovered it. He was greatly enamoured with her, and is reported to have used great pains to preserve her beauty and her complexion, by a variety of contrivances, besides that of introducing the restorative of the snail as mentioned elsewhere, and the invention of cosmetics, which, if truly related, might have not improbably hastened her death; but which, notwithstanding the reports of his jealousy of her, he was so much affected with grief, that he retired, after her loss, to Gresham college, and there shut himself up in the habit of a hermit, wearing a long mourning cloak, a high crowned hat, and suffered his beard to grow, as a proof of his regard for her memory. There were many fine portraits of this lady, and one of them by Vandyke, representing her husband, Sir Kenelm, and herself in the same picture. Her picture was also in the queen's drawing-room at Windsor castle; and another at Belvoir.

The year after Sir Kenelm's death, the monument was defaced, the church being destroyed in the great fire; and the following lines were composed by way of epitaph:

Under this tomb, the matchless Digby lies;
Digby the great, the valiant, and the wise;
This age's wonder for his noble part,
Skilled in *six tongues*, and learned in *all the arts*
Born on the day he died, th' eleventh of June,
And that day bravely fought at Scanderoon;
It's rare, that one and the same day should be
His day of birth, of death, of victory.

He had four sons, Sir Kenelm, John, George and Edward; and a daughter, Margery, married to Edward Dudley, of Clopton, Northamptonshire.

Kenelm, the elder son, a young gentleman of great hopes, appeared for the king, 7 July 1648, with the Duke of Buckingham, and others, under the Earl of Holland, near Kingston in Surrey; but being attacked before they could well form, were compelled to retreat; and being surprised at St. Neots, in Huntingdonshire, by Colonel Adrian Scrope's Regiment of Horse, were, after a gallant defence, totally routed; and he was killed on the spot.

John Digby, his brother, succeeded at Gothurst; and married, first, Catherine, eldest surviving daughter of Henry Earl of Arundell, Norfolk, and Surrey (sister of Thomas Howard, restored to the dukedom of Norfolk); and, secondly, Margaret, fourth daughter of Sir Edward Longueville, bart., of Wolverton, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, bart., of Stowe; and by her had two daughters; Margaret Maria, married to Sir John Conway, of Boddruddan, Flintshire; and Charlotte, the younger, married to Richard Mostyn of Penbedw, in the same country. These two gentlemen in 1704, sold the manor of Gothurst, with Stoke Goldington, and the advowson of both the churches,

to George Wrighte, son of the lord keeper, Sir Nathan Wrighte, knight, for the sum of £27,000. It was afterwards leased by Lord Carrington who resided here until the expiration of the lease, whereupon the owner, Lady Macdonald, after living here for a short time sold it to James William Carlike, D.L., the present lord of the manor.

Arraignment of Sir Everard Digby.

Upon the termination of the trial of the other conspirators, Sir Everard Digby was arraigned upon a separate indictment taken at Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire, before Sir Christopher Yelverton, and other special Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, on the 16th of January, 1605-6. This indictment being found by a Grand Jury of the county of Northampton, was delivered to a special commission issued into Middlesex for the arraignment of the prisoner, and consisting of the same persons who composed the commission under which the other conspirators were arraigned and tried.

The indictment charged him with high treason in the article of conspiring the death of the king, the overt acts laid being a conference with Catesby in Northamptonshire respecting the Powder Plot, an assent to the design, and the taking of the oath of secrecy. Having heard the indictment read, he showed a disposition to confess the principal part of it, and so began to enter into a discourse. But being advertised that he must first plead directly to the indictment, guilty or not guilty, and that afterwards he should be licensed to speak his pleasure, he forthwith confessed the treason contained in the indictment, and so fell into a speech, whereof they were two parts. viz., motives and petitions. The first motive which drew him into his action was not ambition or discontentment of his estate, neither malice to any in parliament, but the friendship and love he bare to Catesby, which prevailed so much, and was so powerful with him, as that for his sake, he entered into resolution to neglect in that behalf his estate, his life, his name, his memory, his posterity, and all worldly and earthly felicity whatsoever; though he did utterly extirpate and extinguish all other hopes for the restoring of the catholic religion in England. His third motive was, that promises were broken with the catholic. And lastly, that they generally feared harder laws from this parliament against recusants, as that recusants' wives and women should be liable to the mulet as well as their husbands and men. And further, that it was supposed that it should be made a præmunire only to be a catholic.

His petitions were, that since his offence was confined and contained within himself, that the punishment also of the same might extend only to himself, and not to be transferred either to his wife, children, sisters, or others; and therefore for his wife he humbly craved that she might enjoy her jointure; his son, the benefit of an entail made long before any thought of this action; his sisters, their just and due portions which were in his hands; his creditors, their rightful doubts, which, that he might more justly set down under his hand, he requested that, before his death, his man (who was better acquainted both with the

men and the particulars than himself) might be licensed to come unto him. Then prayed he pardon of the king and lords for his guilt. And lastly, he entreated to be beheaded; desiring all men to forgive him, and that his death might satisfy them for his trespass.

To this speech forthwith answered Sir Edward Coke, Attorney-General, but in respect of the time (for it grew now dark), very briefly :

1st. For his friend-ship with Catesby, that it was mere folly and wicked conspiracy. 2ndly. His religion—error, and heresy. 3rdly. His promises—idle and vain presumptions, as also his fears—false alarms. Concerning wives that were recusants, if they were known so to be before their husbands (though they were good protestants) took them, and yet for outward and worldly respects whatsoever, any would match with such; great reason there is that he or they should pay for it, as knowing the penalty and burden before; for “*Volenti et scienti non fit injuria*”—(no man receives injury in that to which he willingly and knowingly agreeth and consenteth). But if she were no recusant at the time of marriage, and yet afterwards he suffer herto be corrupted and seduced by admitting priests and Romanists into his house; good reason likewise that he, be he papist or protestant, should pay for his negligence and misgovernment. 4thly. Concerning the petitions for wife, for children, for sisters, &c., O, how he doth now put on the bowels of nature and compassion in the peril of his private and domestical estate! But before, when the public state of his country, when the king, the queen, the tender princes, the nobles, the whole kingdom were designed to a perpetual destruction; where was then this piety, this religious affection, this care? All nature, all humanity, all respect of laws, both divine and human, were quite abandoned; then was there no conscience made to extirpate the whole nation, and all for a pretended zeal to the catholic religion, and the justification of so detestable and damnable a fact.

Here did Sir Everard Digby interrupt Mr. Attorney, and said, that he did not justify the fact, but confessed that he deserved the vilest death and most severe punishment that might be: but he was an humble petitioner for mercy, and some moderation of justice.

Whereupon Mr. Attorney replied, that he should not look by the king to be honoured in a manner of his death, having so far abandoned all religion and humanity in his action; but that he was rather to admire the great moderation and mercy of the king, in that for so exorbitant a crime no new torture, answerable thereunto, was devised to be inflicted upon him. And for his wife and children, whereas he said, that for the catholic cause he was content to neglect the ruin of himself, his wife, and all; he should have his desire as it is in the psalm, “Let his wife be a widow, and his children vagabonds; let his posterity be destroyed, and in the next generation let his name be quite put out.” For the paying of his creditors it is equal and just; but yet fit the king be first satisfied and paid, to whom he owed so much, as that all he had was too little; yet these things must be left to the pleasure of his majesty, and the course of justice and law.

After this speech of the Attorney-General, the Earl of Northampton,

one of the commissioners,* made an address to Sir Everard Digby as follows:—

You must not hold it strange, Sir Everard Digby, though at this time being pressed in duty, conscience, and truth, I do not suffer you to wander in the labyrinth of your own idle conceits without opposition, to seduce others, as yourself have been seduced by false principles, or to convey yourself by charms of imputation, by clouds of error, and by shifts of lately devised equivocation, out of that strait wherein your late secure and happy fortune hath been unluckily entangled, but yet justly surprised by the rage and revenge of your own rash humours. If in this crime (more horrible than any man is able to express, I could lament the estate of any person upon earth, I could pity you; but thank yourself and your bad counsellors for leading you into a crime of such a kind, as no less benumbeth in all faithful, true, and honest men the tenderness of affection, than it did in you the sense of all humanity. That you were once well thought of and esteemed by the late queen I can witness, having heard her speak of you with that grace which might have encouraged a true gentleman to have run a better course. Nay, I will add further, that there was a time wherein you were as well affected to the king our master's expectation, though perhaps upon false rumours and reports, that he would have yielded satisfaction to your unprobable and vast desires; but the seed that wanted moisture (as our Saviour himself reporteth) took no deep root; that zeal which hath no other end or object than the pleasing of itself is quickly spent; and Trajan, that worthy and wise emperor, had reason to hold himself discharged of all debts, to those that had offended more by prevarication than they could ever deserve by industry. The grace and goodness of his majesty in giving honour, at his first coming, unto many men of your own affection, and (as I think) unto yourself; his facility in admitting all, without distinction of Trojan or of Tyrian, to his royal presence, upon just occasions of access; his integrity in setting open the gate of civil justice unto all his subjects, equally and indifferently, with many other favours that succeeded by the progression of peace, are so palpable and evident to all men that have either eyes of understanding, or understanding of capacity, as yourself and many others have been driven of late to excuse and countenance your execrable ingratitude with a false and scandalous report of some further hope and comfort yielded to the catholics for toleration or connivance before his coming to the crown, than since hath been performed, made good and satisfied. I am not ignorant that this sedition and false alarm hath awakened and incited many working spirits to the prejudice

* The Earl of Northampton was a catholic, and the attention paid to him by James on his accession, by giving him, first a place in the privy council, and then the wardenship of the Cinque Ports, and an earldom, occasioned much jealousy among the protestant party. To obviate the suspicions which might arise from the religious faith, and to exempt him from the general stigma which was unjustly attached to all catholics in consequence of the plot, Northampton was industriously put forwards on this trial and on that of Garnet; on both of which occasions very long and laboured harangues are attributed to him in reprobation of the plot.

of the present state, that might otherwise have slept as before with silence and sufferance ; it hath served for a shield of wax against a sword of power ; it hath been used as an instrument of art to shadow false approaches, till the Trojan horse might be brought within the walls of the parliament, with a belly stuffed, not as in old time with armed Greeks, but with hellish gunpowder. But, howsoever, God hath blinded you and others in this action, as he did the king of Egypt and his instruments, for the brighter evidence of his own powerful glory ; yet every man of understanding could discern that a prince, whose judgement had been fixed by experience of so many years upon the poles of the north and the south, could not shrink upon the sudden ; no, nor since, with fear of that combustion with Catesby, that arch-traitor, like a second Phaeton, would have caused in an instant in all the elements. His majesty did never value fortunes of the world, in lesser matter than religion, with the freedom of his thoughts ; he thought it no safe policy (professing as he did, and ever will) to call up more spirits into the circle than he could put down again ; he knew that *omne regnum in se divisum desolabitur* ; philosophy doth teach that whatsoever any man may think in secret thought, that where one doth hold of Cephias, another of Appolo, open dissension ensues ; *quod insitum alieno solo est, in id quo alitur, natura vertente, degenerat* ; and the world will ever apprehend that *quorum est commune symbolum, facillimus est transitus*. Touching the point itself, of promising a kind of toleration to catholics, as it was divulged by these two limbs of Lucifer, Watson and Percy, to raise a ground of practice and conspiracy against the state and person of our dear sovereign, let the kingdom of Scotland witness for so many years before his coming hither, whether either flattery or fear—no, not upon that enterprise of the 17th of November, which would have put the patience of any prince in Europe to his proof, could draw from the king the least inclination to this dispensative indifference, that was only believed because it was eagerly desired. Every man doth know how great art was used ; what strong wits sublimed ; how many ministers suborned and corrupted, many years, both in Scotland and in foreign parts, to set the king's teeth on edge with fair promises of future helps and supplies, to that happy end of attaining his due right in England, when the sun should set, to rise more gloriously in the same hemisphere, to the wonder both of this island and of the world. But all in vain ; for *jacta erat alea*, the king's compass had been set before, and by a more certain rule, and they were commonly cast off as forlorn hopes in the king's favour, that ran a course of ranking themselves in the foremost front of foreign correspondence. Upon notice given to his majesty from hence, some years before the death of the late queen, that many men were grown suspicious of his religion, by rumours spread abroad, that some of those in foreign parts, that seemed to be well affected to his future expectation, had used his name more audaciously, and spoken of his favour to the catholics more forwardly than the king's own conscience and unchangeable decree could acknowledge or admit (either with a purpose to prepare the minds of foreign princes, or for a practice to estrange and alienate

affections at home), not only utterly renounced and condemned these encroachments of blind zeal and rash proceedings, by the voices of his own ministers, but was careful also for a caution to succeeding hopes, so far as lay in him, that, by the disgrace of the delinquents in this kind, the minds of all English subjects chiefly might be secured and the world satisfied. No man can speak in this case more confidently than myself, that received in the queen's time, for the space of many years, directions and warnings to take heed that neither any further comfort might be given to catholics, concerning future favours, than he did intend, which was to bind all subjects in one kingdom to one law concerning the religion established, howsoever in civil matters he might extend his favour as he found just cause; nor any seeds of jealousy and diffidence, sown in the minds of protestants by Shimeis and Ahitophels, to make them doubtful of his constancy, to whom he would confirm with his dearest blood that faith which he had sucked from the breast of his nurse, apprehended from the cradle of his infancy, and maintained with his utmost endeavour, affection, and strength; since he was more able, out of reading and disputing, to give a reason of those principles which he had now digested and turned to nutriment. He that wrote the Book of Titles,* before the late queen's death, declares abundantly by seeking to possess some foreign prince of the king's hereditary crowns, when the cause should come to the proof, and may witness instead of many, what hope there was of the king's favour or affection to catholics in the case of toleration or dispensation, with exercise of conscience. For every man may guess that it was no slight or ordinary degree of despair that made him and other of his suit renounce their portion in the son and heir of that renowned and rare lady, Mary Queen of Scotland, a member of the Roman church, as some did in David: *Nulla nobis pars in David, nec hæreditas in filio Isai*. For hereof, by letters intercepted in their passage into Scotland, the records and proofs are evident. His majesty so long as he was in expectation of that which, by the work and grace of God, he doth now possess, did ever seek to settle his establishment upon the faith of protestants in generality, as the most assured sheet anchor. For though he found a number on the other side, as faithful and well-affected to his person, claim, and interest as any man alive, as well in respect of their dependency upon the queen his mother, as for the taste which they had of the sweetness of himself; yet finding with what strength of blood many have been overcarried out of a fervency in zeal in former times, observing to what censures they were subject, both in point of faith and limitation of loyalty; and, last of all forecasting to what end their former protestation would come when present satisfaction should shrink, he was ever fearful to embark himself for any further voyage and adventure in this strait, than his own compass might steer him and his judgement level him. If any one green leaf for catholics could have been visibly discerned by the eye of Catesby, Winter, Garnet, Fawkes, &c, they would neither have entered

* This alludes to Father Parson's book in support of the title of the Infanta of Spain, published under the assumed name of Doleman.

into practice with foreign princes during the queen's time for prevention of the king's lawful and hereditary right, nor have renewed the same, both abroad and at home, by missions and combinations, after his majesty was both applauded and entered. It is true, that by confessions, we find that false priest, Watson, and arch-traitor, Percy, to have been the first devisers and divulgers of this scandalous report, as an accursed ground, wherein they might with some advantage, as it was conceived, build the castles of their conspiracy. Touching the first, no man can speak more soundly to the point than myself; for being sent into the prison by the king to charge him with this false alarm, only two days before his death, and upon his soul to press him in the presence of God, and as he would answer it at another bar, to confess directly whether at either of both these times he had access unto his majesty at Edinburgh, his majesty did give him any promise, hope, or comfort of encouragement to catholics concerning toleration; he did there protest upon his soul that he could never win one inch of ground or draw the smallest comfort from the king in those degrees, nor further than that he would have them apprehend, that as he was a stranger to this state, so till he understood in all points how those matters stood, he would not promise favour any way; but did protest that all the crowns and kingdoms in this world should not induce him to change any jot of his profession, which was the pasture of his soul and earnest of his eternal inheritance. He did confess that in very deed, to keep up the hearts of the catholics in love and duty to the king, he had imparted the king's words to many, in a better tune and a higher kind of descant than his book of plain song did direct, because he knew that others, like sly bargemen, looked that way when their stroke is bent another way. For this he craved pardon of the king in humble manner, and for his main treasons, of a higher nature than these figures of hypocrisy, and, seemed penitent, as well for the horror of his crime as for the falsehood of his whisperings.

It hindered not the satisfaction which may be given to Percy's shadow (the most desperate boutefeux in the pack), that as he died impenitent, for any thing we know, so likewise he died silent in the particulars. For first, it is not strange that such a traitor should devise so scandalous a slander out of the malice of his heart, intending to destroy the king by any means, and to advance all means that might remove obstructions and impediments to the plot of gunpowder. The more odious that he could make him to the party malcontent, and the more sharply that he could set the party malcontent upon the point and humour of revenge, the stronger was his hope at the giving of the last blow, to be glorified and justified. But touching the truth of the matters it will be witnessed by many, that this traitor Percy, after both the first and second return from the king, brought to the catholics no spark of comfort, of encouragement, of hope; whereof no stronger proof of argument doth need, than that Fawkes and others were employed both into Spain, and other parts, for the reviving of a practice suspended and covered, after Percy's coming back; as in likelihood they should not have been, in case he had returned with a branch of

olive in his mouth, or yielded any ground of comfort to resolve upon. Therefore I thought it thus far needful to proceed, for the clearing of those scandals that were cast abroad by these forlorn hopes and graceless instruments. It only remains that I pray for your repentance in this world for the satisfaction of many, and forgiveness in the next world, for the saving of yourself; having had, by the king's favour, so long a time to cast up your account, before your appearance at the seat of the great auditor

Then spake the Earl of Salisbury, especially to that point, of his majesty's breaking of promise with recusants, which was used and urged by Sir Everard Digby, as a motive to draw him to participate in this so hideous a treason. Wherein his lordship, after acknowledgement that Sir Everard Digby was his allay, and having made a zealous and religious protestation concerning the sincerity and truth of that which he would deliver; shortly and clearly defended the honour of the king herein, and freed his majesty from all imputation and scandal of irresolution in religion, and in the constant and perpetual maintaining thereof; as also from having at any time given the least hope, much less promise of toleration. To which purpose he declared how his majesty, as well before his coming to this crown, as at that very time, and always since, was so far from making of promise, or giving hope of toleration, that he ever professed he should not endure the very motion thereof from any. And here his lordship showed what was done at Hampton Court at the time of Watson's treason, where some of the greater recusants were convented; and being found then not to have their fingers in treason, were sent away again with encouragement to persist in their dutiful carriage, and with promise only of thus much favour—that those mean profits which had accrued since the king's time to his majesty for their recusancy, should be forgiven to the principal gentlemen, who had both at his entry showed so much loyalty, and had kept themselves so free since from all conspiracies. Then did his lordship also (the rather to show how little truth Sir Everard Digby's words did carry in anything in which he had spoken) plainly prove, that all his protestations wherein he denied so constantly to be privy to the Plot of Powder, were utterly false, by the testimony of Fawkes (there present at the bar), who had confessed, that some time before that session, the said Fawkes being with Digby at his house in the country, about what time there had fallen much wet; Digby taking Fawkes aside after supper, told him that he was much afraid that the powder in the cellar was grown dank, and that some new must be provided, lest that should not take fire. Next the said earl did justly and greatly commend the Lord Mounteagle for his loyal and honourable care of his prince and country, in the speedy bringing forth of the letter sent unto him; wherein he said, that he had showed both his discretion and fidelity.

Which speech being ended, Sir Everard Digby then acknowledged that he spake not that of the breach of promise out of his own knowledge, but from their relation whom he trusted; and, namely, from Sir Thomas Tresham.

Upon the conclusion of the speech of the Earl of Salisbury, Sergeant Philips prayed the judgment of the court upon the verdict of the jury against the seven first prisoners, and against Sir Everard Digby upon his own confession. And first the prisoners being severally asked what they could say, wherefore judgment of death should not be pronounced against them, there was not one of them (excepting Digby and Rookwood) who would make any continued speech, either in defence or extenuation of the fact. Thomas Winter only desired that he might be hanged both for his brother and himself. Keyes said "that his estate and fortunes were desparate, and as good now as another time, and for this cause rather than for another." Robert Winter and Bates craved mercy. John Grant was a good while mute; yet after submissively said, "He was guilty of a conspiracy intended, but never effected." But Ambrose Rookwood first excused his denial of the indictment, for that he had rather *lose* his life than *give* it. Then did he "acknowledge his offence to be so heinous that he justly deserved the indignation of the king and of the lords, and the hatred of the whole Commonwealth; yet could he not despair of mercy at the hands of a prince so abounding in grace and mercy; and the rather because his offence, though it were incapable of any excuse, yet was not altogether incapable of some extenuation, in that he had been neither author nor actor but only persuaded and drawn in by Catesby, whom he loved above any worldly man; and that he had concealed it, not for any malice to the person of the king, or to the state, or for any ambitious respect of his own, but only drawn with the tender respect, and the faithful and dear affection he bare to Mr. Catesby his friend, whom he esteemed more dear than any thing else in the world. And this mercy he desired not from any fear of the image of death, but for grief that so shameful a death should leave so perpetual a blemish and blot unto all ages upon his name and blood. But howsoever, that this was his first offence, yet he humbly submitted himself to the mercy of the king, and prayed that the king would herein imitate God, who sometimes doth punish corporally, but not mortally."

Then the Lord Chief Justice Popham, after a relation and defence of the laws made by Queen Elizabeth against recusants, priests, and receivers of priests, together with the several occasions, progresses, and reasons of the same, pronounced judgment of high treason upon all the prisoners. Upon the rising of the court, Sir Everard Digby bowing himself towards the lords, said, "If I may but hear any of your lordships say you forgive me, I shall go more cheerfully to the gallows." Whereupon the lords said, "God forgive you, and we do."

The Execution of Digby.

After his condemnation and judgement, he was sent back to the Tower and remained there until the Thursday following, upon which day he, together with his accomplices, Winter, Grant, and Bates, were drawn upon sledges and hurdles to a scaffold erected at the western end of St. Paul's churchyard. Great pains were taken in the city to render the spectacle of the execution as imposing as possible. Among

other arrangements made in order to be prepared against any popular tumult, a precept issued from the lord mayor to the alderman of each ward in the city, requiring him to "cause one able and sufficient person, with a halbard in his hand, to stand at the door of every several dwelling house in the open street in the way that the traitors were to be drawn towards the place of execution; there to remain from seven in the morning until the return of the sheriff.

Now these four above-named being drawn to the scaffold, made on purpose for their execution, first went up Digby, a man of a goodly personage, and a manly aspect; yet might a wary eye, in the change of his countenance, behold an inward fear of death, for his colour grew pale and his eye heavy; notwithstanding he forced himself to speak, as stoutly as he could. His speech was not long, and to little good purpose, only, that his belied conscience being but indeed a blinded conceit, had led him into this offence, which, in respect of his religion alias indeed idolatry, he held no offence, but, in respect of the law, he held an offence, for which he asked forgiveness of God, of the king, and the whole kingdom; and so, with vain and superstitious crossing of himself, betook him to his latin prayers, mumbling to himself, refusing to have any prayers of any but the Romish catholics; went up the ladder, and, with the help of the hangman, made an end of his days in this world.

Ecclesiastical History.

In 1712, an Act of Parliament was passed for ascertaining and establishing the glebe lands, tithes, and other profits of the rectory of Gothurst, of which George Wrighte was then patron, and Thomas Mellor, clerk, the rector; who agreed that certain differences which had arisen between them should be decided by the award of Matthew Disney and David Trimmell, who had been appointed arbitrators by writing, dated 30th May, 1711, with the consent of William, then bishop of Lincoln, the ordinary. Under this act it was provided, that an annual payment of £42/1/-, issuant out of lands, closes, and grounds in Gothurst, should be paid to Thomas Mellor and his successors, rectors of Gothurst, free from all parish rates and parliamentary taxes, in full satisfaction of a settlement formerly made by indenture, dated 13 February 1706, between Sir Nathan Wrighte, knight, lord keeper of the great seal; Mary Bedford, of London, widow; the aforesaid George Wrighte, son and heir apparent of Sir Nathan, and Mary his wife; Richard Crawley, of Doctor's Commons; Ezekiel Wrighte, of St. Giles's-in-the-Field; John Twells, of St. Clement Danes; and John Crawley, of Northaw, in Herts.; whereby the estates of the said Sir Nathan Wrighte were secured to the aforesaid George Wrighte.

The manor and advowson of Gayhurst, alias Gothurst, having always previously passed together in the succession of the lords of the place, in 1724, George Wrighte, the then possessor, obtained the license and faculty of the bishop of Lincoln, to rebuild and improve the fabric of the church, &c.; and in 1736, another license, for the annexation to and consolidation of the church of Stoke Goldington, with Gothurst,

since which period, they have passed together as one and the same rectory, as more particularly expressed in the said episcopal licenses. By an Act of Parliament, passed in 1770, for enclosing the open and common fields, Job Waseley, of Priors Marston, Warwickshire; Thomas Harrison, of Stony Stratford; and John Franklin, of Gothurst, Bucks, awarded to the Rev. Robert Dowbiggen, then rector of Gayhurst, and his successors, in compensation for glebe-land and common rights, an allotment of 42 acres 3 roods and 10 perches; another allotment, in lieu of great and small tithes, of 126 acres 1 rood and 21 perches; and a third, of 10 acres 1 rood and 15 perches; and also in lieu of great and small tithes, or composition thereof, in respect of messuages, cottages, tenements, gardens, orchards, closes, and ancient inclosures, another allotment of 24 acres 1 rood and 21 perches; thereby discharging the premises from all future payment of tithes; also, in lieu of his glebe land lying in the old inclosures, within the liberties of Gothurst, 36 acres 1 rood and 3 perches.

Rectors.

RADULPHUS, presented 1227, by Anne de Nowers. He was succeeded by ALAN, capellanus, instituted 28 November 1243, on the presentation of Sir Almaric de Nowers, Knight, patron, with reservation of four marks to Ralph, son of the said Almaric, in the name of a benevolence.

JOHN, died rector 1265; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM DE KISLINGBURGH, presented 1265, by Sir William de Nowers, Knight, and at his death,

ROBERT BARR was instituted 8 October 1294, on the presentation of Sir William Nowers.

RICHARD DE LESTALE, presented 1340. He had been chaplain of Salden.

RICHARD occurs rector in 1344; and at his death, was succeeded by

ROGER TONEY instituted 10 July 1344, on the presentation of Grace de Nowers.

He had been also chaplain of Salden, and at his death was succeeded by

ROBERT ARCHER, instituted 5 October 1361, *ad eccliam beati Petri Apostoli* on the presentation of John de Nowers. He resigned. and

JOHN DE HUGLEY was presented 17 November 1365, by John de Nowers, lord of Gayhurst.

JOHN MORDEN quitted it for Emberton; and was succeeded by

JOHN ALDESTER alias ALDESTRE, 27 August 1390, presented by Sir John Aylesbury, Knight, Henry Bydale, rector of Haversham, and John Fitz Richard de Olney.

He exchanged for Compton-Magna, or Linga, in Worcester Diocese, with

JOHN BAYNTON, 4 April 1391, who exchanged it for Ailborough, in Saum Diocese, with

JOHN BLACKFORDLY, 31 December 1393, being presented by the aforesaid patrons. He exchanged it for Wolston-Parra, with

RICHARD ASTON, 17 October 1399, who exchanged it for Shatewell, with

WILLIAM WRIGHT, who was presented 30 September 1400, by the king. At his death,

THOMAS STOCKING was presented 30 December 1400, by Sir John Tyringham, Knight.

HENRY PATONE, succeeded circ. 1427; and resigned to

JOHN BRAWEN, presented 11 October 1431, by the king.

WILLIAM CHAPMAN was the next possessor. He resigned and was succeeded by

RICHARD WALEYS, presented 3 May 1450, by Robert Nevill.

JOHN FITZ-JOHN, presented 1 February 1454, by Robert Nevill, and on his cession,

THOMAS DUNTON was presented 25 August 1457.

THOMAS LOWE was presented 30 May 1460, by Robert Nevill. He resigned and

WILLIAM RADCLIFFE was presented 23 December 1465, by Robert Nevill, senr., and on his cession,

THOMAS SYWARD was presented 31 January 1465, by Robert Nevill. On his cession, JOHN HAMERTON was presented 8 March 1476, by Robert Nevill; and on his resignation,

THOMAS HYNDE was presented 28 August 1489, by Robert Nevill. He resigned, and EDWARD FISHER was presented 15 July 1499, by Matthew Jonys and Joan his wife, formerly wife of Robert Nevill, lord of Gayhurst.

NICHOLAS GADD died rector 1518; being succeeded by

JOHN WODE, presented 26 October 1518 by Michael Nevill. He died and

THOMAS GOLDEN was instituted 7 February 1543, on the presentation of William White. He was rector in 1547.

WILLIAM PRIESTWICK, presented 11 September 1554, William White and Jane his wife, by reason of her jointure from Michael Nevill, her former husband. He was also rector of Bletchley in 1558 and 1559; and died in 1561. He was there styled B.A., and was succeeded by

ANTHONY EVANS, 1561, who had quitted Broughton for this living, and was married.

HUGH DAVIES resigned 1583, and was succeeded by

HENRY WOODLAND, presented 6 February 1583, by the queen, on lapse. He was buried here 29 October 1634.

ROBERT WALLIS, M.A., was instituted 4 Novem. 1634, on the presentation of Robert Barker, the advowson for this turn being granted by Sir Richard Farmer, knight, who was patron during Mr. Digby's life, the latter being a Roman Catholic. He was also rector of Ellesborough; but resigned, and

WILLIAM WRIGHT was presented 7 February 1644, by William Maiston of Stoke Goldington, patron, *pro hac vice*. He was also curate of Little Linford, and was buried here 18 March 1671. At his death,

EDMUND BUTTS, B.A., was instituted 2 September 1672, on the presentation of John Digby. He quitted it, having Stoke Goldington; and was curate of Little Linford, 1684. He resigned, and

THOMAS MELLOR, B.A., was instituted 25 June 1686, on the presentation of Sir John Conway, bart. He was curate of Little Linford, and was buried here. From 7 February 1736 the living has continued in conjunction with Stoke Goldington.

The Church.

The ancient parish church (St. Peter) being a "very old, uncomely, ruinous building," was pulled down in 1725, and the present edifice, on the same site, was completed in 1728, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren, at the expense of the lord of the manor, George Wrighte. It is situated in the garden, a little to the east of the mansion, and is in the Italian style, with a square tower at the west end, having an urn at each angle, and surmounted by a cupola. The tower contains a clock and one bell inscribed:

ANTHONY CHANDLER MADE ME 1678.

The church is pewed with oak, in four compartments; the s.e. compartment being one pew only, and reserved for the mansion family. The pulpit is octagonal, with panelled sides, and has a richly carved canopy or sounding board. The walls are ornamented with a bold cornice; and the ceiling is in compartments richly decorated. The font is of Caen stone, octagonal in shape, and ornamented with shields, etc. The altar-piece is carved oak, on the top of which are representations of lighted candles in gilt candlesticks. On the side of the east end of the church is a marble monument, with whole length statues of Sir Nathan Wrighte, and his son (by Roubiliac); the former in his robes, and the son in a plain gown, as clerk of the crown. This monument

bears no inscription, but there is a marble tablet to the family in the chancel, inscribed

IN THE FAMILY VAULT UNDERNEATH THE CHURCH REPOSE THE REMAINS OF

ANN BARBARA WRIGHTE,

WHO DIED JANUARY 19TH 1830, AGED 46,

HER ONLY BROTHER HAVING DIED YOUNG

SHE SUCCEEDED HER FATHER, GEORGE WRIGHT, ESQR.

IN THE ESTATES OF GAYHURST AND STOKE GOLDINGTON IN THIS COUNTY

AND BROOKSLY IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER—

AND HER MOTHER, ANN WRIGHT,

DAUGHTER AND SOLE HEIRESS OF JOSEPH JEKYLL, ESQR.

IN THE ESTATE OF DALLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

SHE WAS REMARKABLE FOR CANDOUR AND GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

AND THE TALE OF WANT OR WOE NEVER REACHED HER EAR IN VAIN!—

SHE WAS THE LAST OF HER RACE, AND HENCE THE MELANCHOLY PLEASURE

OF RAISING THIS SIMPLE TABLET TO MARK HER RESTING PLACE,

AND TO RECORD HER AMIABLE QUALITIES,

HAS DEVOLV'D ON ONE WHO WAS UNCONNECTED WITH HER BY BLOOD

BUT WHOSE PRIVILEGE IT WAS TO ENJOY

HER LONG AND LATEST FRIENDSHIP

AND TO WHOM SHE BEQUEATHED HER MATERNAL ESTATE.

THE REMAINS OF HER FATHER, MOTHER, AND BROTHER ALSO REPOSE IN THE
VAULT UNDERNEATH THIS CHURCH.

In the tower are four achievements of the manorial family, and a neat mural tablet to the memory of Thomas Burford, his wife, and two children.

In the chancel of the old church, was a slab supposed to have covered the remains of John de Nowers, with an inscription in French.

*Jo' de Novers Gist Ici
Dieu de s'alme est merri. Amen.*

In the mansion are still preserved several interesting documents relative to the rebuilding of the church, by Sir-Christopher Wren.

The register dates from the year 1728.

The Mansion.

This most stately residence of the Hundreds stands delightfully in an extensive and well-wooded park, within view of the main road from Newport Pagnell, through the county. Cowper, the poet, says "the situation is happy, the gardens elegantly disposed, the hothouses in a most flourishing state, and the orange trees the most captivating creatures of the kind I ever saw."

The mansion is very large, and many of the apartments are so well proportioned, large, and lofty, as to afford in the interior that imposing effect which is usually denominated grandeur.

In this mansion are some very artful contrivances for the concealment of the parties to the Gunpowder Plot, for which Digby suffered; and in one of the apartments, known as Digby's room, is a moveable floor, which to ordinary observers, offers nothing remarkable in its appearance, but is made to revolve on a pivot, which, by a secret bolt, discloses underneath it another room, receiving light from the lower part of a mullioned window, not discoverable exteriorly, unless at a very great distance, in which the conspirators were said to have holden their meeting, and from which there were private passages of ingress



and egress, without almost the possibility of detection, even by the occupiers of the mansion. Here are also some remarkably ingenious drawers or cupboards, which by the knowledge of a secret bolt will open, and thus expose to view a secret egress to the above floor.

It is now the seat of William Walter Carlile, Esq., M.P., for North Bucks, and it is gratifying to know its popular proprietor is preserving and searching for every relic which may recall recollections of our past history, and perpetuate the style and character of the older part of the building, which has many artistic excellencies seldom surpassed.

Tradition says, from here exists a subterranean passage to Gorefields, in the adjoining parish of Stoke Goldington. If such be the case, there must have been an important residence here before the one now standing, which was commenced in 1597.

From time to time, since the erection of this historic pile, it has undergone many alterations in accordance with the tastes of the period; but with its present and most enthusiastic owner, who takes a delight in the beauties of antiquities, it has undergone quite another style of alteration. Unlike the vandals of days gone by, whose love it was to plaster up all ornament and things beautiful, he glories in erasing all this work of deception—plaster and paint—and exposing to view the choice works of the sculpture's art in this Elizabethan and Jacobin residence, and well has he been repaid for the expense and labour. The entrance hall is spacious and beautifully adorned, with goblin and old Flemish tapestries, collection of Jacobin ens and armour, and several modern foreign collections of implements of defence, interesting paintings and studies, and massive fireplace in the Norman



W. W. CARLILE, ESQ., M.P.,
Of Gayhurst House.

style. At the east end of the hall has lately been exposed to view, the best doorway in the mansion, of the Jacobin period, and in the floriated sculpture of the arch is the monogram J. K.

To the right of this door is the drawing room, which was, like the whole of the place, denuded of its panelling and tapestries by Lord Carrington (whose adviser or decorator was Burgess), but has been beautifully decorated and repanelled in accordance with the antiquity of the mansion. The north-east front was added by the Digbys and occupies a space that was in fact a court between the north and east gables. This latter is perhaps the most sumptuous room of the mansion and contains curios collected from distant parts by Mr. Carlile, which shows him to be a connoisseur of no small degree. There is one of Sir Frederick Leighton's early paintings, if not his master-piece; and many more by eminent artists. The room teems with costly works of art, the whole surmounted with a most beautifully corniced ceiling by Grinley Gibbons, that eminent sculptor and decorator. The style of architecture of this portion is Queen Anne with Georgian windows. The smoke room, on the south-east front, has been restored to its former pristine beauty by having the old oak panelling replaced. During the replacing of this adjunct, to adapt it to its former appearance, was discovered another of those most ingenious and intricate devices for concealment, a room of safety below the floor.

There are rooms designated Raleigh, Burleigh, Digby, Prince, Guard, and Peacock, all from their associations with these historic personages. That most worthy of comment is the Prince's Room, from the fact that the present Prince of Wales occupied it whilst staying with Lord Carrington at Gayhurst, and from here spread the erroneous account that he contracted his memorable illness. The Guard Room is a portion of what was the most extensive room at the top of the mansion but now divided into a suite. This was used to secrete the soldiers who were used to garrison the mansion during the turbulent period of the catholic persecutions. The Peacock Room derives its name from the fact that the decoration of the walls display this gorgeous and vain bird in its colouring. From the roof, which is surmounted with a flag staff, is a most picturesque view, and quite a surprise to those who are strangers to this elevated portion of the mansion, for naturally one would imagine with its secluded position there would be nothing to see; this is quite the reverse and it is difficult to surpass it in this historic and well-known portion of North Bucks, the Newport Hundreds.

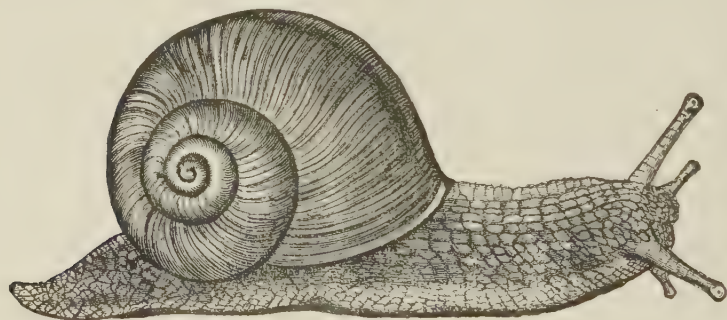
From the house to the river runs a secluded pathway, known as Digby's Walk, from the fact, as tradition says, that Digby escaped from the house by one of the secret outlets and proceeded along this little-used path to hide himself in a well at the end of it, whilst the house was being searched for him.

The Park is 250 acres in extent, and is beautifully wooded. There are three well stocked fish ponds, which add considerably to the picturesqueness of the scenery and afford pleasure to many angling sportsmen. The Park is entered through the Lodge Gates, at the south end of the village. This entrance is a modern erection, in the

Tudor style, and was an addition made by the present lord of the manor.

The Chalybeate Spring.

This mineral spring is situated in the southern corner of a field known as Cottage Close, and is, in what is becoming quite a secluded spot, having been enclosed in a small plantation. The spring is approached from Digby's Walk by a pathway edged by yew trees, and forms quite a pretty sight upon the crest of the hill. The water issues from the base of a monument into a basin, which is completely covered with a ferruginous deposit, owing to the great amount of iron contained in solution, though of itself the water is of chrystal clearness, and very cold. The overflow empties itself by means of an underground culvert.



The Roman Snail.

The *Helix Pomatia*, or large edible snail, which abounds in the spring months, in many watery places, and amongst woods, is found at Gayhurst; a coppice on the banks of the Ouse abounds with it, and it is said to have been brought from France by Sir Kenelm Digby, to be used by Lady Venetia, as a restorative in consumption. This snail, which is of a whitish hue tinged with red, and the flesh particularly white and firm, buries itself deep in the ground on the approach of winter, and remains in a torpid state until the spring.

The method of serving up these slimy dainties for invalids was: "Take twelve *snayles*, clean washed, boil them in a pint of new milk to half a pint, then pour it on one ounce of eryngo-root." The sufferer being told to take it every night and morning.

TYRINGHAM-cum-FILGRAVE.

HESE, formerly two distinct parishes, were united to make one good benefice. Before these parishes were united, Lysons states that Tyringham possessed only two houses. Tyringham was designated both Teligham and Tedlingham, in the Conqueror's Survey; but Filgrave is not mentioned in that ancient record. The combined parishes of Tyringham and Filgrave, are bounded on the north, by Ravenstone and Weston Underwood; on the east, by Emberton; on the south-east, by Sherington; on the south, by Lathbury; and on the west, by Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington. The river Ouse runs from the north to the south round the west side of the parish. The village of Filgrave is situated upon a bye-way between the Wellingborough and Northampton roads from Newport Pagnell, and is 4 miles north-east from the latter place; and 4 miles, south-west from Olney. It is in the same jurisdiction as the previously mentioned parishes. The population in 1891, was 155; the area, 1,792 acres.

TYRINGHAM.*The Manor.*

Before the Conquest, Tyringham seems to have been divided into many small portions, which were subsequently united into two principal estates; that part of the parish which was reckoned to belong to the Hundred of Bonestou, and probably comprised the western and northern portion, must have been contiguous to, and nearly enclosed by the estate of the bishop of Constance; but Willis seems to have entertained an opinion, that Filgrave, which is not distinguished by name in the Norman Survey, did in fact constitute, at that period, the estate surveyed as the lands of William Fitz Ausculf, in Tyringham, which, in Domesday Book, are described as situated in Sigelai Hundred. The lands of the bishop of Constance, whether in Tyringham, properly so called, or in Filgrave, had been previously holden by two thanes; one of them a tenant of Waltheof, the earl, who had two hides and half a virgate for his manor; and the other, who held the third part of a virgate only, not called a manor, but which he, as well as the greater possessor, might alienate. Anschtill, who held of the bishop two hides and a half, and third part of a virgate, for one manor, had therefore evidently united the divided portions of the Saxons; and at the time of the Survey, his lands here were sufficient for four ploughs; three were kept in the demesnes; and three villeins, with six bordars, had one plough. There were four servants; and the whole value was estimated at 50/-; when he first held it, 20/-; and in the days of Edward, 60/-.

The estate of Fitz Ausculf seems to have been much more extensive than that of the bishop of Constance, and had likewise previously been holden in divided portions, by five thanes. Harold had three hides for a manor; Estan, two for another manor; Aliva, wife of Harold, one hide and a half, for a third manor; Godwin, a priest, had half a hide; and Godric, a man of Harold, one virgate; all of which were consolidated, and, after the Conquest, holden under William Fitz Ausculf, by Acard, as seven hides and one virgate and a quarter, for this manor; the land being sufficient for eight ploughs; three were employed in the demesne, and five by nine villeins, with six bordars. There were six servants, pasture for eight teams, woods for two hundred hogs, and twenty-six pence payments, for minute customs; altogether, estimated at £6; as it had been £8 when he first held it, and the same in the time of Edward.

The lands of the bishop having been forfeited to the crown by his rebellion, the tenure of his subfeudatory was probably transferred, before the reign of Henry II., to the family of Tyingham; for Giffard de Tyingham bestowed the church here upon Tickford priory in that reign; and held three knight's-fees here about 1165. It may be inferred that he derived his descent from Acard, who, in the time of the Conqueror, held Fitz Ausculf's manor in Tyingham, being the great grand-son of the aforesaid Achard. The estates of Fitz Ausculf are said to have passed to the Paganells, and the family of Somery.

A descendant of the before-mentioned Giffard de Tyingham, called Roger, being called upon, by a writ of Quo Waranto, to show his right to "Frankpledge in Tyingham, Fylegrave, Estwode, Crowley," pleaded that he held the town of Tyingham of Roger the earl, who himself held *in capite* of the king; that Filgrave, Astwood, and Crawley, were appurtenant to Tyingham and all his tenants there attended at the courts of the latter once in a year, and had done so immemorially; but that he had no instruments of punishment for offenders. And it was contended by Gilbert de Thornton, on behalf of the king, in the usual manner, that Roger de Somery had not established his right, by showing the payment of half a mark to him, as a customary acknowledgement for the enjoyment of that privilege; and the said Roger de Tyingham was in mercy, etc.

Sir Richard de Tyingham, who was son of Giffard de Tyingham, in 1218, presented his clerk to the church here which was probably resumed from the convent of Tickford, in exchange for other lands, soon after his father's grant; whose son and successor was Geoffrey, father to John Tyingham, who married Cecily, daughter to Sir Thomas Heslerton, knight, probably of Barenton, in Cambridgeshire. This John had issue, Roger, his son and heir, who being a knight, attended Edward I., in his expedition into Scotland, and had a command in the army; and, as the Paganell's demesnes here, came, by failure of male issue, to the Somery's, he or his father seems also to have acquired their possessions, on payment of knight's-fees to Somery. The successor to this Sir Roger, was a son of the same name, who was in parliament for Bucks in the reign of Edward II., as his father had been in the reign of Edward I.,

and was also sheriff of Bucks and Beds ; and, by Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Cowdray, had issue, John, his eldest son, and William, his second son ; which John, who was knight of the shire 1382, by Isabell his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Weston, had issue, Sir John Tyringham ; who, by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Lucy, had a son of the same name, who married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Lawrence Pabenharn ; and, dying in 1445, was succeeded by John, his son and heir, who married Alice, sister of Sir Robert Olney, and had issue, John, his son and heir ; who, by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Brudenell, his second wife, had issue, Thomas, his son and heir. This Thomas Tyringham dying in 1526, was succeeded by another Thomas, his second son, who died in 1595, aged eighty years ; and his successor was Sir Anthony Tyringham, his eldest son. His second son was Thomas, who, settling at Lower Winchendon, was progenitor of the Tyringham family of that place, who were surviving there 1732, but became extinct in the male line, in the fourth generation, soon after. As to Sir Anthony, he died in 1614, and was buried here ; and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Tyringham, his son, who died 1636, and by Frances his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Gorges, who died 1649, had issue, five sons and five daughters, The four eldest sons dying without issue male, this estate descended to Sir William Tyringham, the fifth son ; who dying in 1685, and leaving issue an only daughter, named Elizabeth, and she becoming wife to John Backwell, son of Edward Backwell, alderman of London, he, in her right, and by Alderman Backwell having advanced large sums of money on the estate, succeeded to the inheritance. He died in 1708, and was buried here, as had been his wife, who died twenty years before him ; and was succeeded by Tyringham Backwell, his eldest son, in 1735. This Mr. Backwell died at Tyringham, where he was buried about 1754, leaving a son, a banker in London, who died soon after, and left issue, a son, about a year old at his father's death. The last Tyringham Backwell died in October 1777, unmarried ; on whose death, the house at Tyringham was left for some years uninhabited, his unmarried sisters removing to Northampton.

Cole heard these ladies say, in their father's lifetime, at Tyringham, that Alderman Backwell, on some failure in the Government security, was forced to retire to Holland, where he died, and being embalmed, was brought over to England and buried at Tyringham ; his face being seen in the coffin, which had a glass in that part of it, just over the face.

John Tyringham, by will, dated 12 July 1484, directed to be buried in the church of the Friars Preachers, in London ; gave £20 towards the building of our Lady's Chapel at Tyringham ; and $\frac{3}{4}$ to keep an annual obit for him. John Tyringham, son of above John by his second wife, by his will, dated 18 February 1500, directed to be buried in our Lady's Chapel joining the chancel of St. Peter in Tyringham ; the great bell to ring on the day of his burial from six to six ; a priest to pray for his soul for seven years ; his picture to be laid on his grave, with his arms and scripture ; and 10/- to be paid for his obit yearly.

Thomas Tyingham, his brother, by his will, dated 1 October 1524, directed to be buried in the midst of our Lady's Church at Tyingham, before our lady's image; fifteen poor men to bear torches and pray for his soul until his months mind be passed. Two tapers to burn before his hearse every holiday during that time. And to his three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne, he gave 300 marks a piece for their portions.

Tyingham House.

The ancient mansion of the family of Tyingham was a noble building, of considerable extent and very elegant construction; having been the residence of that influential family during several centuries. In 1685, on the death of Sir William Tyingham, it devolved to John Backwell, who had married his only daughter. It then became tenanted by different occupiers, amongst whom were Humphrey Minchin, an Irish gentleman, mentioned in one of Cole's MS. Letters as its occupier in 1760, when that diligent observer visited the house. He was representative in successive Parliaments for Oakhampton and Bossiney, Clerk of the Ordinance during part of Lord North's administration, and Serjeant-at-Law, by patent, of the House of Commons in Ireland. His residence at Tyingham was marked by habits of such generous and attractive hospitality, as maintained the reputation of Tyingham House in all its pristine honour. The mansion was subsequently occupied, during some few years, by Richard Cumberland, whose sons, Charles and William, were born here. In his interesting memoirs, he mentions his having attended the Earl of Halifax, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as private secretary; and on the return of the family, "they were to repose for a few days at Tyingham;" which he describes as "a large and venerable mansion on the banks of the Ouse, which had caught his eye when on his road to Ireland." The old manor house was taken down in 1792, and a large and handsome edifice erected in its stead, by William Praed, in whose family it is now in possession.

The present mansion has large massive pillars supporting a pediment in front, and an open balustrade at the top. The lawn slopes to the river Ouse, over which is a handsome stone bridge, composed of one arch. Entering the delightful grounds, from the Newport Pagnell and Gayhurst road, through the fine arched gateway, the tower of the church is seen peeping through a thick cluster of trees. The park is well studded with ancient forest trees, relieved in various places by the bright green foliage of acubas, laurels, hollies, etc. The windings of the river renders the scene more perfect.

The following old portraits at Tyingham House are mentioned by Pennant:

An old lady, in a great quilled ruff and gauze cap, with an enormous veil falling to the ground; a black gown, spotted with white jewels, forming a cross, on her breast; another on her arm; great strings of pearls on her wrists, standing under a canopy on which is a crown and coat of arms.

A young lady, leaning on a chair, in a gauze cap falling back, yellow petticoat flowered with red, and a feather fan.

Half-length of Colonel Backwell, in blue, gold sleeves and frogs; wearing a sash; and with a battle in view.

Small portrait of Edward Backwell. Alderman of London, and a banker; with long hair, a flowered gown, and a table near him.

Letter from Charles I., when imprisoned in Carisbrook castle, to Sir William Tyringham:

“To our trusty and well beloved friend, Will. Tiringham.

We must ascribe it to a more potent arme than that of flesh, that when we seem to be in the lowest condition, we are not destitute of compassionate friends. of this we have beyond our hopes a present experience, even from those we esteemed our professed enemies, by whose assistance we doubt not but our affairs will suddenly be so stated, that some designs for our present enlargement will be speedily put into execution. But to make these engines move usefully, monie is our only want, a suppliment whereof we cannot promise to our selfe, but from those who have bin most faithfully to us, and in this ranke we must ever reckon you, whose forwardnes in our service we cannot forgett wth purchasing to ourselfe the ignominious stampe of ingratitude: if our intelligence fayle us not, and we haue noe reason to suspect it, you are at present provided to furnish vs wth five hundred pound, and it is a present and speedy supply must aduance our designs. We must therefore desire and conjure you, as you loue us and tender our safety, wthout delay to deliuer that sune to this bearer, and if possibly wthout noise, in Gould, to whom you may giue credit, though we must not giue you his name, for that he desires may be concealed, and so farre we have reason to comply wth him, that will undergoe such a hazard for vs. All that we shall give you more in charge is, that you communicate this negotiation to noe one liuing; and this we must charge upon you as matter of trust and honor; we haue already too much cause to make vs sensible of oune and our friends suffering for want of secrecy. and had it not bin to preuent the like, we could not haue thought it reasonable to move you for so great a sune. There remaines only to lett you knowe, that this seruice wil be so acceptable to us, that it will not be easy for vs to sett a proportionable valuation upon it, yet you may be confident of such returns from vs, and may stand most wth our honour, and the merits of the engagement, you hereby putt upon us, we shall ever prize at the highest rate. We rest confident of your love, and be assured of ours.

Aprill 10, 1648.

Charles R.”

The Rectory

Was, in the first valor, in 1534, entered at £13/6/10½ exclusive of Filgrave, which was estimated at £5/19/7. Its present value is £312 per annum.

The house, situated in Filgrave, is a handsome dwelling, on high ground and commands a beautiful view. This was the parsonage of Filgrave parish before the union with Tyringham.

A terrier, dated 21 October 1674, and signed B. Taylor, rector, describes the rectory, at Tyringham, as comprising.

A house of three bays, with a small leanto adjoining; stone walls all but one bay, which is brick and studd; all thatched; an orchard, containing one rood; the yard and the house which the ground stands on, one rood; one close of pasture adjoining, one acre and a half; and another containing three acres. In Broad Green three lands. In Colewort field three acres, six lands. In Hobbs' Beanfield three acres and a half. Arable nine acres.

In another terrier, delivered to the Bishop of Lincoln in 1700, are enumerated.

A dwelling house, stable, coach house, barn, and a brew house, altogether forming four bays. Item. one barn of one bay; an orchard, garden, two closes of six acres.

Two acres of arable abutting on Church Furlong, in Hobs' Barn field butting and bounding upon Berry orchard, shooting north and south. Item. Three acres of arable in Calliworth field, one butting on Calliworth Close, the other upon Portway, and shooting east and west. Item. Three acres of arable in Broad Green field.

St. Peter's Church, Tyingham.

This church is a small neat structure, in the gothic style, rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1871, upon the site of the more ancient edifice, in memory of William Backwell Tyingham. Its component parts are nave, chancel, chantry, organ chamber, north porch, and west, ivy-mantled tower, which contains five bells, inscribed.

First : ECCE QVAM BONVM ET QVAM IVCVNDVM 1629.

Second : RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1720.

Third : SICVT ROS HERMON IN MONTE SION 1629.

Fourth : THOMAS RVSSSELL ✕ OF WOOTTON BY BEDFORD MADE ME

✕ IAMES BROOKES CHVRCHWARDEN 1735.

Fifth : RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 8041.

The low Norman tower arch is open to the church, and through this may be seen the large two-light west window. Above the tower arch still remains the niche for the sanctus bell. The lower stages of the tower are Norman, and the upper, of the time of Henry VIII. At this time, the windows on each face of the third stage, which are still visible, were probably built up. There are four-light mullioned windows upon each face of the upper stage. The font and pulpit are of Caën stone and are in accordance with the general style of the interior. The south side of the nave is lighted by four two-light windows, one of stained glass and inscribed :

TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OVR MOTHER, MARY TARVER, 1879.

The north side is lighted by three two-light windows, with inner porch door at the west end. The chancel is nicely decorated and is lighted by seven lancelet windows all containing scriptural subjects. The chantry is connected with the chancel by two arches resting upon a Corinthian pillar. This is used by the members of the family of Tyingham House as their sittings. In here are two handsome memorials of white marble, one to the memory of William Praed and Elizabeth his wife, this being decorated by representations, in bold relief, of canal locks, and bearing a long inscription testifying to the interest he took in the welfare of the locality, and the influence he exerted in passing the Act of Parliament for the Grand Junction Canal, which traverses the Hundreds for so great a distance. The other tablet is to the memory of James Backwell Praed and Sophia his widow. Upon the east wall of this chantry are two brasses with effigies, and a portion of the inscription of another that was formerly the best. They are John Tyingham, a Crusader, dressed in a tabard which is decorated with the St. Andrew's cross, and which is the Tyingham coat of arms, with the dog's head as the crest.



Armiger insignis Er John Terynghm tumilat' § Cu sponsis binis iacet hic sub
marmore stratus

Hys erat Elizabeth nomen de stirpe probata § Mitis una fuit soror illustris generata
Dei Willi Catesby semper amanda § filia Scitiferi Edmūd Prudenell q; sedā §
Que sibi comūne fuerant in cordis amore § Hic in defuncte serū tumilant: honore
Hys tribz § gēitis donet deus altu poloru § succurrat eis parces uiabz eorum §

On each side of the effigy of Mary Catesby are the coats of arms of the Tyringham and Catesby families, upon shields, but these are much defaced, as the accompanying illustration will show :



Here lyeth Mari Catesby Wyf of Antony Catesby
Squyer Dowghter of John Terynghme Squyer
the whiche Mari Died the viij Daye of Septembe
the yere of our lord god M 6 E and viij ∞

The following inscription is below that of Mary Catesby.

HERE LYETH BVRVED THOMAS TYRINGHAM ESQVIER AND
PARNELL HIS WIFE DAUGHTER OF IOHN GOODWYN OF OVER
WINCHINDON ESQVIER AND SYSTER TO SIR IOHN GOODWYN
KNIGHT WHOLYVED TOGEATHER MARYED THRESCORE YERES
THE SAYD PARNELL DEPARTED OVT OF THIS LYFE THE XXIX OF
DECEMBER 1594 & THE SAYD THOMAS TYRINGHAM THE XXIX
OF MARCH THEN NEXT FOLLOWING HE BEING OF THAGE OF
LXXX YERES & SHE OF THAGE OF LXXII YERES LEAVING BE
HYND THEM TWO SONES VIDLTZ ANTHONY & THOMAS AND
FIVE DAUGHTERS ELIZABETH KATHEREN MARY ANE & FRANCIS

This was originally upon a large slab in the pavement of the old church, and covered the grave. There were the effigies of a man and woman and seven children, but these have all been lost,

Upon the west wall is a brass plate with the coat of arms of Tyingham, and inscribed,

"In memory of William Backwell Tyingham, of Tyingham, Bucks, and Trevet-hoe, Cornwall, Esquire, son and heir of James Backwell Praed, Esquire, and Sophia his wife, born in Wimpole Street, London, Oct. 1, 1829, died at Tyingham, Nov. 29, 1870. This church was rebuilt in 1871, by Fanny Adela Tyingham in memory of her husband. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

On the south wall of the nave and below the stained glass window, is a hammered and embossed brass as follows.

* IN LOVING MEMORY OF *
ANNE PLANT FOR 26 YEARS THE
DEVOTED NURSE AND FRIEND OF
THE FAMILY OF THE REV. J. TARVER
BORN . 10th . OF . APRIL . 1827
DIED 10th OF SEPT 1895 * *
WELL . DONE . THOV . GOOD . AND
FAITHFUL . SERVANT * *

In the base of the tower are mural tablets to the memory of members of the families of Cooper, Swannell, Westoby, and Boyer. And in the organ chamber there are three neat tablets to the Wynter and Whinfield families.

The registers commence with the year 1629, and are kept in good preservation.

Rectors of Tyingham.

HENRY WALTHAM, presented in 1218, by Richard de Tyingham.

HENRY DE MALOLACU was presented in 1252, by William de Beauchamp. He died ; and was succeeded by

JOHN DE WYTHAM or WYCHAM, presented 9 November 1276, by Roger de Thurkeley, and at his death,

WILLIAM DE TYRINGHAM was presented 1 July 1312, by Sir Roger de Tyingham, Knight. He died ; and

WILLIAM COLE DE LOUGHTON was presented 7 July 1349, by the same patron. At his death,

WILLIAM SCHYPWICK, alias ALLEN, was presented 7 November 1361, by John Brock, of London. He exchanged for St. Anne's, Aldersgate, London, with

THOMAS WETEWANG, presented 11 January 1372, by Sir John de Tyringham, Knight.

He exchanged for Dodingherst rectory, in Essex, with

JOHN BARRON, presented 8 August 1379, by the same patron. He exchanged for Rothing rectory, in Essex, with

JOHN PRYK DE SWANESEY, 29 December 1391, who was also presented by the same patron.

RADOLPHUS TYRINGHAM, in 1437.

JOHN BRASIER died in 1460.

RICHARD SEEL, presented 10 August 1460, by John Tyringham, senr. He died ; and was succeeded by

ROBERT SMALE, 17 October 1466, on the presentation of John Tyringham ; and resigning,

JOHN MIDDLETON, LL.B., was presented 18 March 1478, by the same patron. He resigned ; and was succeeded by

RALPH LEYHAM, 14 January 1484, on the presentation of Elizabeth Tyringham, widow ; and dying,

THOMAS REYNES, M.A., was presented 14 August 1500, by John Tyringham, and on his resignation,

RICHARD EDMUNDS was presented 3 March 1509, by Thomas Tyringham ; and at his death, was succeeded by

THOMAS LITTERWORTH, or LUTTERWORTH, 12 February 1547, on the same presentation.

HENRY HUDSON, presented 5 September 1553, by Lawrence Sanders, by grant of Thomas Tyringham ; and at his death,

HENRY COCKS, B.A., was presented 16 February 1556, by Thomas Tyringham.

ANDREW WARBURTON, presented in 1560, and occurs in 1561, being then married. At his death,

LAWRENCE HULL was presented in 1564, by Thomas Tyringham ; and at his death,

THOMAS BRADSHAW was presented 5 December 1585, by the same patron. He was also rector of Filgrave, which church " was desecrated in the time of Queen Elizabeth." He was succeeded by

ANTHONY TYRINGHAM, M.A., presented 1611. He was installed prebendary in the ninth stall in Worcester Cathedral in 1631 ; and was a great sufferer in the rebellion, having been seized, with two of his neighbours, or, according to another account, with his two nephews, on the road between Maids' Morton and Stony Stratford, by a party of Parliamentary soldiers, who took away the only sword among the three, robbed them of their horses, money, and coats, and sent them with a guard to their garrison at Aylesbury. They had not proceeded far, before they were stripped more nearly ; and Mr Tyringham, not making so much haste in taking off his cassock as they desired, one of the dragoons cut him through his hat into his head ; and with another blow across his fingers ; fired a musket at one of his nephews ; and charging them with attempting resistance, sent to hasten the coming up of Captain Pollard, the commandant of the party ; who, on his arrival, attacked Mr. Tyringham with his sword, and nearly severed his arm from his body. This outrage and barbarity are related to have been borne with great fortitude ; for, according to the relater, upon hearing the officer called Pollard, the clergyman told him, that now *he had made him also a pollard* (in allusion to the phrase amongst woodmen, who called a tree that had been lapped, by that name) ; after much loss of blood, the wounded gentleman was permitted to have a bandage applied to his limb ; but on being brought to Whitchurch, about four miles from Aylesbury, he was stripped of his " boots, jerkin, hat, and cap ; " and at length, in a cold dark night, brought to Aylesbury, where he was under the necessity of submitting to the amputation of his arm the next day, telling the rebels with great boldness, that, " notwithstanding all their ill-usage, he hoped to see them hanged." In the narrative, Captain Pollard after his barbarous treatment of Mr. Tyringham, is said to have turned aside to Whaddon Chase, and diverted himself in killing some of the king's deer ; and it is a little unfortunate for the credit of the relater, that the Chase did not belong to the crown. Walker remarks, he was not informed, whether Mr. Tyringham actually survived, but " is sure that he did not live to see restoration, and therefore probably failed in his hopes of

seeing justice done upon the villainous authors of his miseries." He, however, survived until 19 Aug. 1659; but was ejected from his prebend for his loyalty. He was buried here; and was succeeded by

BENJAMIN TAYLOR, M.A., presented 1659, and admitted in 1660; who died in 1675; and was buried here 2 September; being succeeded by

HENRY MAURICE, M.A., presented 22 October 1675, to the united churches of Tyringham-cum-Filgrave, by Edward Backwell.

ROBERT STYLES, M.A., presented 24 September 1679, by John Backwell. He was successively master of the school at Buckingham and Northampton; was also rector of Preston Bisset and dying there, was buried 26 March 1730, at Syresham, near Brackley, Northamptonshire, among his relations, the Dancers; and was succeeded in this living by

BRETT BACKWELL, B.D., inducted 14 May 1730, on the presentation of his brother, Tyringham Backwell. He was also rector of Moulsoe; a fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge; died in 1756; and was buried at Tyringham, 16 March, aged 68; being succeeded by

EDMUND SMYTH, M.A., presented 13 March 1700, "by the widow Backwell, under a bond of £2,000, to resign it, if her son, when come of age, did not approve of him." He was presented to the rectory of Great Linford in 1770, but quitted it 1786, in favour of his son; and dying in 1789, was buried in the chancel of Great Linford church; and was succeeded by

JOHN WYNTER, M.A., presented 4 November 1789, by William Praed, who had married one of the sisters of Tyringham Backwell. He had been nearly twenty years curate to Mr. Smyth, late rector; was of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; and held also by dispensation, the Rectory of Exhull, Warwickshire. At his death, was succeeded by

WILLIAM SMYTH, M.A., presented 22 April 1815, by the same patron. He was the son of Edmund Smyth, rector here, the next immediate predecessor of John Wynter. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford: M.A., 1786; and was also rector of Great Linford.

HENRY WREY WHINFIELD, M.A., presented by William Praed, Esq. of Tyringham, whose daughter, Sarah Arabella Praed, he married, 17 January 1822.

JOHN RANDOLPH, M.A., instituted 1849. He resigned, and

JOSEPH TARVER, M.A., J.P., was presented in 1850.

FILGRAVE,

Although not to be found under this name in Domesday Book, then formed and was surveyed as part of Tyringham, as before described, and was rated at ten hides. It is presumed to have belonged to the bishop of Constance; and on the confiscation of his lands in the reign of William Rufus, it became again vested in the crown; until Henry II., gave it, with lands in other places, to Halenod de Bidun. Towards the latter end of the reign of this king, John de Bidun bestowed the seignory of Filgrave (which was then holden by a feudatory tenant) upon the abbey of Lavendon, founded by one of his ancestors; and on the division of the Bidun property, between the heirs female, in the reign of Richard I., Filgrave was included in that portion which went to William Briwere, and came by the marriage of his daughter, to Baldwin Wake, of whom it was holden at the end of the reign of Henry III.

In 1221, a fine of lands in Filgrave, was passed between William Fitz Roland and Simon le Curtvalice, in which the latter released his right to William, and to his heirs.

In 1257, a fine was levied between John de Tyringham and John le Blake and Felicia his wife, of messuages and lands in Filgrave, to the

use of John de Tyingham. It appears, that although there were several lords or proprietors of lands at Filgrave at this period, the chief owners were the Tyinghams; who have ever since continued to possess this property, with the Tyingham estate.

The advowson of the church at Filgrave was given about 1160, by Hamon, son of Manfelin, Lord of Wolverton, to the abbey of Nuns dedicated to St. Mary de la Pre, near Northampton, founded by Simon St. Liz. second Earl of Northampton, temp. king Stephen; and about the same period, Gifford de Tyingham granted to the said nuns, half a yard of land here. In 1229, a fine was levied between William de Sherington and Cecily, abbess of the said monastery, of the advowson of the rectory of Filgrave, to the use of abbess and convent. It continued in the hands of the convent, until the dissolution of the religious houses; when Henry VIII., by patent dated 18 July 1544, granted the advowson of Filgrave, with lands there, to Thomas Lowe; in whom it remained, until Edward VI., granted to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, knight, his heirs and assigns for ever, *inter alia*, the advowson and right of patronage of the rectory and church; of which his successor, Sir Arthur Throckmorton, knight, died, possessed at Paulerspury, in 1626. It appears, however, that the Throckmortons afterwards sold this advowson to the Tyinghams; or, that the churches of Tyingham and Filgrave became united; but there is not found in the Lincoln registers, any regular union or annexation of the same. It is said, that in the time of queen Elizabeth, in consequence of the roof falling in, the parishioners deserted it, and resorted to Tyingham; and it would seem, that this might have been the probable cause; for Thomas Bradshaw, who was presented to the rectory of Tyingham in 1585, also styled himself, in 1598, "rector of Filgrave." The living was valued in the valor of 1289, at seven marks.

The church was dedicated to St. Mary, and consisted of a nave and chancel, which seem to have been leaded; and an embattled tower at the west end, which by its dimensions and height, seems to have contained four bells, and to have been about fifty feet high. Two of the bells are said to have been taken to Tyingham, one to Sherington, and the fourth that had rolled down Lower Ram's Close into the brook at the bottom of Cuckoo Pound, was afterwards dug out and taken to Emberton, where it was utilised when those bells were recast.

In 1730, the tower and part of the side walls of the church were standing, and they probably would have been standing now had they not been purposely demolished. Cole informs us that Mrs. Backwell, then of Tyingham house, gave orders for the pulling down of what remained of the church in order that the stones might be used to repair a mill. This desecration was postponed for a short time through the intervention of Mr. Wrighte, of Gayhurst, who does not appear to have been influenced by any veneration for the sacred edifice. Cole's account of the matter is curious. "When Mr. Wrighte heard of Mrs. Backwell's design, the tower making a very good object from one of his parlour windows, as it also does at Weston Underwood, he applied to Mrs. Backwell, as guardian of her son, to prevent the taking of it

down, offering as I was told by Mr. Throckmorton, to give from his estates an equal quantity of stones to repair the mill; but by the suggestion of the steward, that old stones which had stood the weather were more probable to be of longer duration, and better for their purpose, it was not listened to and so was taken down." Mr. Chubb, who was an old bachelor and worth £3,000, lived at Sherington, valet de chambre to Thomas Uthwat, of Great Linford, and who inherited his master's loose principles, as well as his old clothes, being steward to Mrs. Backwell, was thought to advise the pulling down of the church.

Cole states that in 1616 several persons willed to be buried in Filgrave churchyard, which shows that after the church had ceased to be used for divine service, the yard still continued to be used as a consecrated burial ground. The churchyard preserved its sacred character and continued to be enclosed till late in the last century when the wall separating it from the adjoining glebe, now known as Churchyard Field, was removed. The only indication of this "God's acre" consists of a stone cross, placed upon the south wall, void of inscription,

Tradition, often the truest part of history, says that one named Downing was the last person buried at Filgrave, his grandson died at Sherington in 1720.

There is a feast celebrated at Filgrave on the Sunday after Lammas day, though the church was dedicated to St. Mary; the keeping their feast on the aforesaid day, viz., St. Peter's day, was not till after the union with Tyringham, which church is dedicated to St. Peter.

Rectors of Filgrave.

WILLIAM died rector in 1272.

JOHN DE BARGO, presented 6 April 1273, by the Convent of St. Mary, Mary de Patris extra Northampton.

JOHN DE BRAI died in 1326; and

JOHN DE WOTTESDEN was instituted 4 March 1326.

ROBERT DE WADENHAM exchanged for Twywell, with

GUY DE WATERVILE, in 1328. He resigned; and

ROBERT DE SCOTHERNE was presented 8 July 1329; but exchanged for a moiety of Little Marlow rectory, with

WILLIAM MOYNER, 3 April 1332. At his death,

JOHN DE BYNETHAM, of Wolaston, was presented 1 October 1349.

JOHN DE CLERK, of Tyringham, was presented 3 December 1350.

JOHN DE WYKHAM died rector in 1359.

THOMAS CLURAT, instituted 3 October 1359.

RICHARD BLYSEBY exchanged for Eltington, with

SIMON NORMAN, 7 July 1375; he exchanged with

RICHARD ROGER 16 March 1392; who exchanged for East Waltham, in Sussex, with

STEPHEN EDWARD, 4 April 1394; he exchanged for Standen, in Essex, with

ROGER DE CALDCOTE, 11 August 1396

JOHN BOTHUM, presented 17 January 1401.

WILLIAM BARKELEY, presented 5 June 1405.

JOHN COOK was presented 30 December 1405.

THOMAS COLSTON, presented 21 July 1420.

ROBERT WHITEHEAD resigned in 1448; when

RICHARD MAUNCELL was presented 30 October 1448.

WALTER BLODE resigned in 1459; and was succeeded by

JOHN WHIRLOS, presented 19 June 1459.

RALPH NEWPORT, canon of Ravenstone, presented 13 May 1460.

EUSTACE BERNARD, canon of Ravenstone, resigned 1480.

THOMAS BORSTALL presented 20 May 1480.

THOMAS CARTER resigned 1484; and was succeeded by

THOMAS BOND, who was presented 11 November 1484.

SIMON MUREL was presented 10 July 1486. He died; and

THOMAS CALVERLY was presented 4 May 1492.

JOHN STOKE was presented 2 May 1509. On his cession,

RICHARD ECCLESHAW was presented 26 November 1509.

THOMAS WYGOS was presented 14 November 1547, by Francis Lowe, of Olney, and occurs rector in 1561.



EMBERTON.

THE parish of Emberton now includes that of Ekeney-cum-Petsoe, which has been annexed for ecclesiastical purposes. The combined parish is bounded on the north, by the river Ouse, Olney and Clifton Reynes; on the east, by Hardmead; on the south, by Chicheley and Sherington; and on the west, by Filgrave. The village of Emberton is 4 miles north, from Newport Pagnell; and 1 mile south, from Olney. It is a compact and neat village and contains several good residences. The population of Emberton in 1891, was 505, and of Petsoe 10. The acreage of the former is 1887, and the latter 411. It is in the civil jurisdiction of Newport Pagnell, and in the same ecclesiastical division as the remaining portion of the Hundreds. The inhabitants, who are not employed in agricultural pursuits, principally depend upon the shoe trade at Olney.

Manorial History.

In the distribution of the lands by the Conqueror, after the victory of Hastings, Emberton was divided between the bishop of Constance, and Judith Countess of Huntingdon, the widow of earl Waltheof; the former obtaining that part which is still called Emberton; and the latter, Petsoe-end, and probably, Petsoe and Okeney, which were then included in the survey of this manor.

The countess Judith's land, which was in Bonestou Hundred, is thus described. In *Ambritone*, Roger held of the countess three hides for one manor. There were three carucates of land. In the demesne two, and six villeins with three bordars having one carucate, and two carucates of pasture; wood for sixty hogs; valued at 60/-; when he first held it, at 40/-; and in the time of Edward, at 60/-. This manor, Alric, a man of Wluui the bishop, formerly held.

The lands of the bishop of Constance, in Emberton, which are entered in Moulsho Hundred, are described as holden by two thanes of the bishop, for three hides. There were two carucates of land in cultivation; two carucates of pasture; wood for fifty hogs; with two villeins and two bordars. It was and had been valued at 40/-; and in the time of Edward, £4. The same subfeudatories then held it who had it after the Conquest; one of them was Goding, who held one hide; and the other, Ulric, who had two hides for his manor, which he could sell.

After the confiscation of the lands of the bishop of Constance, by William Rufus, in consequence of his rebellion, when Robert Duke of Normandy endeavoured to wrest from him the kingdom of England, that king, or his successor, Henry I., bestowed this manor, with some

other of the forfeited lands of the bishop in this neighbourhood ; on Faulk Pagnell, baron of Dudley, and lord of Newport Pagnell, which was reckoned the head of his barony in this county. From him, the manor passed, by a female heir to the family of Somery ; and John de Somery, the last male descendant, died in possession, in 1342.

The feudatory tenant of the Paganells, in 1168, had been Paganus de Emberton, who held lands here as one knight's fee, having been succeeded by his son, named William, before 1219. The tenants of this fee founded Emberton church ; for, in that year, William, the son of Pagan, presented to the rectory ; and in the same year, William de Emberton is recorded, in the Testa de Nevil, as having paid scutage for this manor in 1234.

Emberton is not mentioned in the Hundred Rolls of Henry III., or Edward I., or in the Placita, or Testa de Nevil, excepting as only entered of the fee of the Newport and honour of Dudley, among the escheats and lands of the family of Somery. In 1332, Ralph Lord Basset, of Drayton, held fees here, belonging to the manor of Olney. The time of its passing to the Tyringhams is in some degree doubtful ; but it seems probable, that it was acquired by marriage of John Tyryngham, with Alice, daughter and heiress of John Olney. At that early period, the Tyringhams are not ascertained to have possessed any lands, holden *in capite* of the king, being only mentioned among the feudatory tenants of the barons of Dudley ; and the reliefs ; and other feudal services arising out of their estates, being paid to the lords of that barony, no inquisitions were taken after their deaths, or preserved among the records of the realm ; but it is extremely probable, that this manor had been acquired by the Tyringhams, at least as early as the time of Edward I., for Sir Roger de Tyryngham presented to the church in 1299 ; and although subsequent presentations were made until the time of Richard II., by other persons, these might have been obtained by conveyance, or feoffments in trust.

In 1369, Henry Green was by an inquisition, found to have died possessed of the manors of Wolston and Wavendon, held of the honour of Berkhamstead ; and the suits of court in Broughton, Emberton, Olney, and Petsoe.

In 1375, John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, died possessed of knight's-fees in Brayfield, Clifton Reynes, Newton Blossomville, Emberton, and Petsoe. In 1416, Thomas Green, *chevalier*, was found to have died possessed of Wavendon, Emberton, and Woughton manors ; suits of court in Broughton, Wolston, Emberton, Olney, and Petsoe. In 1465, John Tyryngham, was found to have died possessed of Tyryngham, Filgrave, Newport, and Emberton manors ; and of lands, &c., in Lathbury, Sherington, and Stoke Goldington. Escheats were also certified of the possession of this estate in the earlier reigns ; in 1292, Edward I., by R. de Somery ; 1312, Edward II., by Robert de Lathbury ; 1330, Edward III., by John de Pabenharn ; 1344, Edward III., by R. Basset ; 1343, Edward III., by John de Somery ; and 1466, Edward IV., by John Tyryngham.

In the Testa de Nevil, Robert de Botteville held half a knight's-fee

in Emberton, of the fee of the earl of Arundel, in the honour of Huntingdon; and the earl himself held of the king.

In 1553, King Edward VI., at the close of his reign, in consideration of £1,709/19/8 paid by Thomas Sydney, of Walsingham, in Norfolk, and Nicholas Halsewell, of Gothurst, in Somerset, granted to them, *inter alia*, all that messuage and tencement, nineteen acres of arable, and all those meadows, feedings, pastures, and hereditaments, *cum pert.* in Emberton, to the late monastery of Lavendon lately belonging; with one cottage in Middleton Keynes, *cum pert.* near the churchyard there, to the late monastery of St. Alban's late belonging; and all those lands tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, and commons, *cum pert.* in Stoke Goldington, to the late monastery of De la Pre, in Northamptonshire, late belonging; to the said Thomas Sydney and Nicholas Halsewell, and their heirs and assigns forever, *tenend.* as of the manor of East Greenwich, in fee and soccage: and in the same year the king granted to Thomas and George Golding, *inter al.* all the said lands, meadows, &c., in Emberton.

By an inquisition in the Courts of Wards, it was returned, that Thomas Tyringham, died 29 March 1595, possessed of the manors of Emberton and Filgrave, held of the king, as of the manor of Newport Pagnell, by knight's service, leaving Anthony his son and heir, then forty years old; who, being afterwards rector of Tyringham, died without issue in 1659, having been a great sufferer in the Civil War*; and the estates of the family descending to Sir William Tyringham, K.B., fifth but eldest surviving son of Thomas Tyringham, elder brother of the said Anthony, this manor and advowson were sold by Sir William, who had no male issue, in 1670, to William Coppin, of Market Cell, in Hertfordshire, who died in possession in 1695; and his son and heir, John Coppin, in 1727, severed the manor from the advowson, and sold the former to John Gore, brother of William Gore, of Tring Grove, Herts, who held his first court here in 1728. The manor having passed in marriage to Mellish was subsequently purchased by William Praed, of Tyringham, the representative, in the female line, of its ancient lords; who had likewise obtained by purchase the right of advowson, from the representatives of Benjamin Pomfret, of Newport Pagnell, to whom it had been sold by Sir William Tyringham, knight, on the manor being severed from the advowson; and on the death of William Praed, the same descended, with Tyringham, to James Backwell Praed, his son and heir, and was vested in his surviving heir.

The Rectory

Was an ecclesiastical taxation of Pope Nicholas, in 1291, estimated at fifteen marks, a pension of two marks being paid out of it to the rectory of Olney.

In 1712, it was returned to the bishop of Lincoln, that this parish was of large extent, containing 100 families, consisting of 400 inhabitants. The rectory was computed at £100 per annum, in the gift of

* See page 151.

Mr. William Coppin, of Market Street, Herts, and was, with Ekeney and Petsoe, assessed to the land tax at £215/10/- being really worth about £140.

The parsonage house, with lands belonging to it, let at about £7 per annum were applied towards apprenticing poor children.

At the inclosure of the open fields, in 1797, an allotment of 20 acres 2 roods 24 perches, was made to the rector, in lieu of his glebe, commons, and old inclosures; and 278 acres 2 roods, in seven several allotments, for his tithes.

The living is now worth £343 per annum.

Rectors of Emberton.

ROBERT DE EMBERTON, presented 1219, by William Fitz Pagan. He died; and WALTER DE AGMONDESHAM was presented 1 March 1274, by Roger de Furneus and Alanore his wife. He resigned; and JOHN DE HASLARTON was presented 20 January 1299, by Sir Roger Tyringham, knight.

JOHN BARKWORTH, died in 1322.

ROBERT TOLTHORPE, presented 6 March 1322, by Thomas Furnel de Raundes. By his arms, that were placed in the windows of the church, he is supposed to have been a considerable benefactor to this edifice.

ROBERT WOLFE, presented 1 October 1366, by John Parker de Olney. He exchanged for Pilkerton, with

HENRY BRETT, 2 January 1373, on the presentation of John de Olney. At his death JOHN MORDEN, alias ANDREW, was presented 11 September 1390, by Sir John Tyringham, knight. He died in 1410; having given the great bell; and completed, as is supposed, the building of the church. He exchanged this living for Gayhurst. There is a brass with effigy to his memory in the chancel.

WILLIAM WHISLER was presented 18 November 1413, by William Irby, clerk, John Olney de Hold, and Hugh Smith, capellanus, who had recovered the presentation against Thomas Chamberlain, and Sarah his wife, of Weston Favel in Northamptonshire. At his death,

WILLIAM HUMME was presented 27 September 1422, by Sir John Reynes, knight. WILLIAM CAMPION died rector in 1471, and was succeeded by

THOMAS FULLER, presented 6 December 1471, by John Tyringham. He was also rector of Wavendon.

JOHN BENDYS was presented 14 May 1485, by Anne Wingfield. He died, and WILLIAM ATKINSON, M.A., was presented 28 February 1508, by John Tyringham. At his decease,

JOHN CARDIFF was instituted 19 May 1525, on the presentation of Thomas Tyringham. He willed 3 August 1543, to be buried in the chancel; and at his death

RICHARD BIRCH was presented 23 December 1543, by Thomas Tyringham. At his death

NICHOLAS WYLEN or WYLY, instituted 26 February 1545, on the presentation of Thomas Tyringham. He willed 8 December 1554, to be buried in the chancel; and gave Mr. Tyringham, the patron, and the next incumbent, £10 to permit his goods to be quietly removed. At his death he was succeeded by

WILLIAM ATKINSON, instituted 3 May 1555, on the presentation of Thomas Tyringham.

ALEXANDER PERRY, presented 19 February 1560, by John Haselfort, the advowson being granted by Thomas Tyringham, and Richard Wake and Elizabeth his wife. At his death

JOHN LLOYD was instituted 1569, on the presentation of Thomas Tyringham.

NICHOLAS CRUMP, instituted 4 April 1574 on the presentation of Queen Elizabeth.

JOHN PRESTMAN, M.A., instituted 2 December 1574, being presented by Thomas Tyringham. He died; and

ANTHONY TYRINGHAM was instituted 3 February 1618, on the presentation of Sir

Thomas Tyringham, knight. He resigned; and
 SIMON YOUNGER was instituted and inducted 19 September 1631. By a nuncupative will, he gave all his effects to Dorothy his second wife; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM ASPIN, who, 30 October 1661, was presented to it legally, after the restoration, by Robert Hastings; and to corroborate his title, took out the king's presentation, 9 July 1662. He was buried here 19 April 1714, having been rector as it was said 56 years.
 WILLIAM SMITH, M.A., was instituted 21 April 1714, and died 1741. He built an excellent parsonage house; and being patron of the rectory sold it. He had a son who was rector of Tyringham.
 SAMUEL BARTON, M.A., presented by Benjamin Pomfret, and inducted 3 April 1742. He was son of Mr. Barton of Great Brickhill, and held it, in trust, for Mr. Pomfret's son. Mr. Barton died of consumption, 31 May 1753.
 ROBERT POMFRET, M.A., inducted 30 April 1753, on the presentation of Mr. Benjamin Pomfret of Newport Pagnell. He died December 1804.
 THOMAS FRY, M.A., was admitted on his own presentation 27 November 1804.
 CAMBELL GRAY HULTON was instituted in 1863; at whose death,
 GEORGE FREDERICK SAMS, M.A., was, on the presentation of C. G. Hulton, instituted in 1878.



All Saints' Church, Emberton,

Stands on an eminence, and consists of a chancel, nave with aisles, north and south porches, and west tower. The last appendage is embattled, and has a stair-turret at its N.E. angle, and contains six bells inscribed as follows:

First : H. BOND & SONS, FOUNDERS, BURFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.
 THIS BELL WAS PLACED HERE IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE,
 WIFE OF CAMBELL HULTON, A.D. 1899.

Second : REVND. THOS FRY MINISTER JOHN LEETE JAMES PAGE
 CHURCH-WARDENS : 1839 GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Third & 4th : TAYLOR'S FOUNDER'S OXFORD 1839.

Fifth : W : & J : TAYLOR BELL FOUNDERS OXFORD : 1839.

Sixth : HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD. ALLELUIA. W : & J : TAYLOR
 BELL FOUNDER'S OXFORD 1839.

Sanctus : Blank. It used to hang on the exterior of the tower.

The style of the edifice is the Decorated, and there is much fine work remaining. The chancel has a very fine five-light window at the

east end, the head containing most elaborate tracery which is filled with stained glass, a portion of which is ancient, and represents St. Edward, bishop, in his pontificals, in the act of imparting his benediction. The inscription at the foot of this window is: To the glory of God and in memory of Thomas Fletcher, of Manchester, who died May 14, 1868. On each side of the window is a good buttress, having a niche with an angular crocketed canopy, and a short pinnacle. There are two windows on each side of the chancel, each of three-lights, and of good design; the western one on the north side is inscribed: In memory of Hannah Mary Elizabeth, wife of Harris Prendergast, born 1814, died 1849. The eastern window on the north side is inscribed: To the glory of God and in memory of Mary Hughes, who died at Emberton on Ascension day 1861, in her 82 year. This window is erected by her affectionate relatives John and Elizabeth J. Conway, and her friend J. H. Christie, Esq. The east window on the south side of the chancel is inscribed: To the glory of God and to the memory of Samuel Fletcher, of Manchester, who died Oct. 13, 1863, by his grateful grandchildren. The western window on the south side depicts the entombment and the resurrection of Our Lord. Beneath it is a brass plate inscribed: This window was erected by Thomas Fletcher, in memory of Henry Minet Leeves, and Harriet his wife, who died at Castaniotissa Eubea, on the 28th Augt. 1854. Also of Henry Samuel, their infant son, who died at Athens on the 24th of Nov., 1854. This lady and this gentleman, who were relatives of the Rev. Hulton, were cruelly murdered in Greece. The lychnoscope contains glass of subdued colours representing an angel hovering over a grave with the tomb stone inscribed: B. H.; at the foot of the window "The spirit shall return unto God who gave it." On a brass plate on the west side of this window, is the following inscription: This window was erected to the memory of Brada, wife of Jessop Henry Fletcher Hulton, solicitor of Bolton, who died on the 11th Feb. 1887, aged 35 years, she now rests near the chancel door of this church. In the south wall is a sedilia of four stone stalls, in regular gradation, beneath a series of pointed arches, having cinquefoils, with plain sub-architraves springing from corbals, and supported by circular pillars. The arches bear the arms of Tyringham. On the north side is a sedilia of three oak stalls. The spacious chancel is entered through a semicircular arch; and the priest's door leads into the vestry on the south side. The chancel has a good cornice of masks and flowers. Five pointed arches on each side, resting upon clustered pillars with moulded capitals, divide the nave from the aisles. The ceilings are plain open ratters with sunk plaster panels; the principals are decorated with angels carved in wood, the whole resting upon floriated stone corbals. The eight windows in the clerestory of the nave are quatrefoil shaped. The heads of the windows in the aisles are filled with tracery; two in the south aisle contain stained glass; the one nearest the east is inscribed: To the glory of God and in memory of Mary Stokes Hulton, who died July 4th, 1876. The window to the west of this is inscribed: "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou

into the joy of thy Lord." Below, upon a brass plate, is the following : Erected to the memory of Cambell Basset Arthur Grey Hulton, rector, by his loving children, died 30th April 1878. The centre window of the north aisle bears the inscription : *In piam memoriam Harris Prendergast, obiit MDCCCLXXIII. ætat LXXII. In memoriam æterna erit justus.* The font is ancient, large, and octagonal, decorated with trefoil-headed arches. The pulpit, of Caen stone, is octangular and has symbolical representations of the Evangelists upon the sides. Through the very fine pointed tower arch may be seen a two-light stained-glass window which exhibits figures of St. John and St. Thomas. The lower part of the tower is Decorated, and has a good doorway; but the upper stage has Perpendicular windows. The north porch retains its parvis.

On the north wall of the chancel is a brass effigy of John Morden, a former rector, who gave a bell to the church, which was the third of the old peal of four, and was inscribed : *In multis annis resonet campana Johannis.* He is vested in alb, stole, chasuble, etc., with a scroll inscribed :

John Prayeth thee say for him a Paternoster and Ave.



Oraie p nra Mri Johis Mordon als andrella quondm Rectoris isti' ecclie
qui dedit isti ecclie portos missal ordinat ps oculi in erat ferr manual
pressionari & ecclie de Olney catholicon legend aur & portos in erat ferr &
ecclie re Hullemorton portos in erat & alba ornameta qui obiit
die mens An^o dni M^occcc. cuius aie ppiciet' deus Ame'

In the south wall of the chancel is an illuminated brass plate bearing the following : *In memoriam Joannis Thomas qui obitt non Ian. 1828 Fenestram hujusco Ecclegiæ occidentalem fieri fecit Maria Hughes In die Pentecostes, MDCCCL.*

In the south aisle is a neat marble tablet erected by the parishioners in memory of the Rev. Thomas Osmond Fry, who died in 1846, in his 27th year. In the same aisle is a brass plate to the memory of Henry Hulton, who was murdered at Taviuni, Fiji Islands, on 9 December 1883. There are slabs and mural tablets in the church inscribed to the families of Jolly, Edwards, Aspin, Hale, etc.

The beautiful church yard, with its well-kept yew trees, is approached through a lych-gate which contains stone sedilia; this is a modern structure, and was raised through the exertions of Mrs. Sams, the wife of the present incumbent. On the north side of the church is a sundial. In the churchyard are some good memorial stones to members of the families of Hulton, Mynard, etc.

The register begins in 1658, in the time of Dr. Aspin, rector; the old one before his incumbency having been lost or destroyed. Amongst the entries are

John, Richard, & Alice, all at one birth, y^e children of John Hill & Alice his wife,
John baptised ff^eb. y^e 10, y^e two last ff^eb 12, 1672.
Mr^r Benjamin Pomfret, Attorney at Law of Newport Pagnell, buried Nov^{br} 15th,
1773.
Dinah Pomfret, wife of Mr^r Benjⁿ Pomfret, of Newport, Pagnell, Buried Dec^{br} 23^d,
1775.

Emberton Clock Tower.

About the centre of the village is a square clock tower, erected by the Rev. Thomas Fry, to the memory of his wife Margaret. The clock and bell upon which it strikes were presented by Miss Hughes, of Emberton. The bell bears the maker's name and date as follows:

IOHN RUDHALL GLOCESTER 1806.

In 1845, as it had become somewhat delapidated, a subscription was raised for its restoration. Upon the west front of the tower is a tablet inscribed:

Time's on the wing, how swiftly he speeds his way
Hast'ning to sink in one continuous day—
Pause passing trav'ler—what thy destiny
When death unveils a vast eternity?
Live then in Christ—in Christ eternal gain
No Christ—no hope but everlasting pain!

XVIIIth Century Tokens.

Emberton, like several of the places in the Hundreds, kept pace with the times, and had its coining apparatus in the XVIIIth Century to meet the demands for small change. The influential tradesmen who were in a position to afford the necessary appliances for money-making were Anthony Scaldwell and John Pierceson. In Boyne's (Williamson's edition) work on Trade Tokens the name is spelt Scaddwell. This is wrong as is proved from the tokens themselves and the 56 entries of the family in the parish registers from 1665 to 1793, when the family seems to have died out in very reduced circumstances, as the two following entries testify:

Mary Scaldwell, Pauper, Buried March 10th, 1791.
 Fanny Scaldwell, Buried, Paup^r, July 4th, 1793.

Little can be gleaned in reference to the Pearson family as the only records are

Susanna Pearson, buried Dec. 5, 1714.

Sam Pearson, buried Apr. 22, 1715.

Susanna Pearson, widow, buried May 11th, Goody Tibley made affidavit. Mr. Gataker certified May 14, 1715.

There are Pearsons in the immediate locality but whether of this family is very doubtful.

The tokens are impressed with the usual scales and the name of issuer and place.

Emberton Charities.

The Feoffee estate consists of a few cottages and 7 acres 34 poles of land. The land was allotted at the inclosure, in lieu of some ancient charity plots, and the "Widow's Close," supposed to have been given by a person named George Edwards, for the use of poor widows. This property yields an annual income of about £58, which is spent partly on the poor and partly for parochial purposes. The "Old School-room" was erected by subscription on charity lands. Mr. Hall, of London, left £50 for the support of the old school; and a Mrs. Miller left £53, the interest to be given to poor women.

EKENEY, OR OKENEY-CUM-PETSOE

Is a small depopulated village, on the south-west of Olney, so completely destroyed, that not even a single house remains. It may be more correct to describe this place as two distinct villages, than under its more ordinary appellation; for here were anciently two churches, which, though of very small account, were originally distinct from each other, as appears by the respective series of their incumbents, before the two benefices were consolidated, which was not until 1409.

It seems to be generally admitted, that they were not surveyed in Domesday Book, unless with either Emberton or Clifton Reynes, between which, these small places are described to have been situated. Cole has ventured upon a derivation of the names, Ekeney or Okeney; being, according to his account, *Insula Quercarum*; and Petsoe or Petes Hoo, signifying Peter's Place; Hoo being *Altitudo*. Willis' list of rectors of St. Martin's Church at Ekeney, copied from the Lincoln Registers, begins in 1246, and of St. James', Petsoe, in 1274; but, in the fine Rolls of Richard I. in 1198, in the Tower of London, it appears that a fine of lands in Petsoe is recorded between Ralph Fitz Arnulf and Nigel Fitz Reginald, which declared the right of Ralph; and in 1233, Ralph de Kemays held in Peteshoe half a knight's-fee of the honour of Huntingdon, of the portion of Henry de Hastings. In the register of Robert Grossthead, bishop of Lincoln, in 1246, a presentation is recorded, in the thirteenth year of his pontificate, of a deacon to the church of St. Martin of Ekeney, by the Lady Ada Fitz-Nicholas.

The list of rectors of Ekeney is begun some few years earlier than the ecclesiastical record of Petsoe, the earliest mention of Petsoe, as stated by Willis to have reference to 1198, several years earlier than the occurrence of the name of Ekeney, which is not again discovered before the reign of Henry III.; but in the Ecclesiastical Taxation of Pope Nicholas, the spiritualities of Petsoe were rated at two marks and a half, and of Ekeney at only half a mark. At that time the principal estate here is presumed to have been in the possession of the great family of Someri, successors of Fitz Ausculfs, lords of the honour of Dudley, and barons of Newport Pagnell. Roger de Someri was returned to have been in possession of the town of Ekeney, in 1291, and in the succeeding reigns, a family deriving its name from the place are said to have been its possessors.

Of the family of D'Ekeney, or D'Akeney, the only authentic and intelligible account which has been preserved, seems to be that in which Sir Robert de Akeney, knight, temp. Edwards I. and II., knight of the shire for Bedford and Bucks, had his writ of expenses, &c, as one of the lords of Clophull and Caynlio, in Bedfordshire, and of Lathbury and *Little Filbury*, in Bucks. The name and situation of this last named place are now equally unknown. He who was the seventh in descent from Baldwin de Ekeney, or de Akeney, on the Roll of Battle Abbey, was a follower of the Conqueror, whose intermediate ancestry held Holkham and other lordships in Norfolk; and whose grandson, Sir John de Ekeney, or de Aganet, knight, in the reign of Edward III., held the sixth part of the barony of Caynlio, in Bedfordshire, and certain lands in *Linslade*, or *Lychlade*, Bucks. His brother, Humphrey de Akeney, is said to have holden large possession in Derbyshire. In the very imperfect descent of this family, it is set forth, that Sir Richard Chamberlain, the son of Sir John Chamberlain, by Jane, daughter and heir of John Morteyn, was descended from an ancient family in Bedfordshire; and that the mother of John Morteyn was an heiress of the family of Ekeney; that Sir Richard Chamberlain married Jane, daughter of Sir John Reynes of Clifton Reynes; and was the father of Sir Richard Chamberlain, of Sherborne, in Oxfordshire.

Willis, who took especial pains to investigate personally the condition of these depopulated villages, states, that, by repeated endeavours to explore their ancient condition, he could only discover that one single house remained within man's memory; but that a tradition prevailed of there having been formerly seventeen tenements at Ekeney; that the extent of the villages did not exceed five hundred acres; and no conjecture could be formed of the situation of Petsoe church, or the period of its demolition, although the site of the church of Ekeney was still plainly to be distinguished in a pasture-close called St. Martin's field, about a quarter of a mile south east of Petsoe manor house, which occupies a site of about half an acre; in the midst of which may be distinctly traced the toft on which the church formerly stood, which was evidently a very small fabric of one aisle, about eighteen paces in length and seven in breadth. Report stated, that some stones had been taken hence, and employed in building a barn at the manor house.

When the church of Ekeney was demolished, the chancel was carefully taken down and re-erected as the chapel on the south side of the chancel of Stoke Goldington church. This chapel still retains its fine piscina.

The tenants of the grounds, and inhabitants of eight or ten cottages, forming a small hamlet, still retaining the name of Petsoe End, are assessed to the parish of Emberton.

In the reign of Henry III. (1260) the manor with the advowson of the church or chapel (or churches and chapels), were in the possession of the family of Chamberlain; and this estate was part of the dower of Joane, wife of William Chamberlain, in 1312. In 1324 it belonged to Margaret, relict of Richard le Chamberlain. He was not that Richard Chamberlain who, by an inquisition, taken 1379, was found, with Margery his wife, to have died possessed of the manor and church of *Pettesho*; but the father of that Richard whose wife died in 1408, possessed of the manors of Ekeney and Petsoe; as did also Joane, or Johanna, wife of another Sir Richard Chamberlain, knight, in 1413; but these manors certainly continued to belong to the Chamberlains, at least until Richard Chamberlain died in 1439, possessed of Petsoe manor. Sibilla, relict of Richard Chamberlain, held the estate in dower in 1501, and most probably until her death; after which, 1520, the manors and right of advowson are said to have been purchased to the use of Lincoln College, Oxford, by the munificence of Edmund Audley, bishop of Salisbury, who had, in 1518, contributed £400 to the society for this purpose.

The estate, both spiritual and temporal, having been thus acquired by Lincoln college, John Cottisford, rector, gave his charter, whereby he constituted Sir John Mordaunt, knight, of Turvey, chief Steward, or Seneschal of the manor of Ekeney-cum-Petsoe, with full possession of the same, under date 30 December, 1521.

Rectors of Ekeney.

HUGH DE NEWPORT was presented in 1246, by Sir Adam Fitz Nicholas.

HUGH resigned in 1274; and

THOMAS PASCHEDEN was presented 9 October 1274, by Robert de Ekeney.

JOHN resigned in 1302.

RICHARD DE OKELE was presented 17 April 1302, by Robert de Ekeney.

HENRY DE AKELE was presented 4 March 1306, by same patron.

JOHN DE CALDWELL was presented 8 January 1318, on the resignation of Henry de Akele.

GEFFRY MARKHAM DE EMBERTON was presented 10 March 1329, by Richard de Ekeney; and at his death

WILLIAM MARKHAMEL DE EMBERTON was presented 5 July 1349, by Thomas Reynes de Clifton. He resigned; and

WILLIAM ATTEMILLE DE AMPHILL was presented by Sir Richard Chamberlain, 5 May 1381; and exchanged it for Auncell with

ROBERT CLARK, 14 March 1381, who quitted it in three weeks; and

JOHN PRATT was presented 1 April 1382, by Sir Richard Chamberlain; but exchanged for Skillingthorp, Lincolnshire, with

WILLIAM STRATTON, 5 May 1382; he resigned in 1386; and was succeeded by

ROBERT CLAYPOOL, 8 June 1386, on Sir Richard Chamberlain's presentation.

JOHN HOWCHINS was presented 27 November 1387, on Claypool's resignation, by the same patron; as was

SIMON CONET, 16 December 1389, on Howchin's quitting for Weekly Vicarage, Northants. He exchanged with
 RICHARD EKETON, 15 July 1395.
 THOMAS LAWE was presented by the king, 23 November 1411; and is the last presented to Ekeney alone

Rectors of St. James's, Petsoe.

HUGH, rector of the church or chapel of Petsoe, dying in 1274, was succeeded by
 ROBERT DE ELKINGTON, 11 October 1274, on the presentation of William Chamberlain, lord of Petsoe; he resigned; and
 GODERIC, capellanus, was presented June 1275, by William Camerarius, i.e. Chamberlain,
 THOMAS, capellanus, succeeded 11 July 1277 on Godric taking a religious habit. He died; and
 JOHN DE BEBY was presented 17 November 1312, by Joan, relict of Sir William Chamberlain, knight.
 JOHN, son of John Tournier of Stoke, succeeded 7 February 1347, on Robt. Chamberlain's presentation.
 WILLIAM CREK DE STRATHERNE, presented June 1349.
 JOHN PRETHERNE was presented 4 August 1370 on the last rector's death, by Sir Robert Chamberlain.
 NICHOLAS KELING exchanged for Cherington, Lincolnshire, with
 ROBERT WYTE or WHYTEN, 4 July 1407 on the presentation of Sir Philip Seynt Clare, in Chamberlain's nonage; of whom he obtained the wardship, but was set aside by the king; and
 RICHARD BOWADE was presented 16 July 1409.

The following incumbents were presented to the united churches of Ekeney-cum-Petsoe.

THOMAS BLOXHAM, M.A., was presented 18 June 1459.
 NICHOLAS LOMBARD, presented 6 October 1473.
 JOHN BAYLEY, LL.D., 16 June 1481.
 HUGH LEGA, died 1499.
 CHRISTOPHER CUDWORTH, 22 April 1499.
 WILLIAM ROPER, was collated 30 April 1524.
 JOHN BOX, S.T.P., presented in 1532.
 ROBERT FIELD, M.A., presented 30 April 1534.
 JOHN COTTISFORD, presented 20 February 1536, he was also rector of Great Linford.
 HUGH WESTON, S.T.P., presented 3 February 1540.
 HENRY HOGSHAW or HENSHAW, B.D., presented 14 September 1558.
 RICHARD CHAPMAN, presented 5 November 1560,
 THOMAS WICKER, rector in 1617. In 1650 it was returned that Petsoe was a chapel to Emberton.
 SAMUEL PEPYS, M.A., rector of Clifton Cency became licensed minister of the free chapels of Ekeney and Petsoe, 21 October 1664.
 JOHN BRERETON, M.A., occurs in 1707 and 1709, as does
 JOHN BRADGATE, M.A., in 1711 and 1712.
 SOLOMON ASHBOURNE, in 1715 and 1717.
 THOMAS ASHBOURNE, M.A., in 1726.

HARDMEAD.

THE parish of Hardmead contains 1,211 acres, a 12th Century church, and a few scattered houses, with a population, in 1841 of 90. It is bounded on the north, by Petsoe and Bedfordshire; on the east, by Astwood; on the south, by North Crawley; and on the west, by Petsoe and Chicheley. The church is situated, by road, 5 miles N.N.E., from Newport Pagnell; and $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.S.E., from Olney,

In 1712, Hardmead was returned as containing 20 houses and 70 persons; and then paid to the land-tax £129/9/9.

According to the author of "A Treatise on Hor, or Hoar Stones," the place appears to have derived its name from its situation, both on the verge of the old hundred of Moselai or Moulsho, and on the boundary of the county.

Moats are traceable in several places in the parish.

Manorial History of Hardmead.

In the earliest accounts that have been preserved of *Herulfmede*, or *Horclmede*, the principal estate, comprising with the manor, the right of advowson of the church, seems to claim priority of description in the manorial history, which from the time of the Conquest, belonged to the family of Windsor, as representatives of Walter Fitz Other, whose manor and lands here were inserted in the Domesday Book, as situated in Moselai Hundred, but without particularising the name of Hardmead in the account of this estate; of which it is only stated, to have consisted of four hides for one manor, holden of the aforesaid Walter, by Ralph, or Radulfus. That there were six carucates of land; in the demesne two; and nine villeins with seven bordars having four carucates. There were two servants; two carucates of pasture; wood for one hundred hogs; altogether valued at 60/-; when he first held it at 100/-; and in the time of Edward, at £4. This manor was holden, in the Saxon times, by Oswi, a man of Alric, who could sell it.

Thus the descent of the lands here seems to have been very incorrectly given by Browne Willis, who represented the benefaction of the church of Hardmead to the priory of Merton in Surrey, as the gift of Ralph de Keynes, with several other benefices which were bestowed upon that religious house by that family, who had required a portion of the estate of the Giffards here, in the time of Henry II., but the barons of Windsor, and, not the family of Keynes, held the principal manors and advowson; and having been the benefactors to Merton

convent, that Priory continued in possession of the estate until the dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII, when by a forced exchange, it came to the crown, as related in the ecclesiastical history of this parish.

The following entries are found in the Escheat Rolls, respecting this family and the manor of Hardmead. In 1398, Bryan Windsor, died possessed of the manor of Hardmead. In 1427, Richard Windsor died possessed of the manor of Hardmead. In 1451, Miles Windsor died possessed of the manor of Hardmead. The rest of the lands in Hardmead are described as in many portions.

The estate of Walter Giffard was holden as a manor, in the hands of Hugh, at two hides and a half. There were two carucates and a half of land, with four villeins and two bordars; one carcate of pasture; and wood for fifty hogs. It was and had always been rated at forty shillings. This manor had been holden by a man of Alric Fitz Goding, who could sell it.

The land of William Fitz Ausculf was another manor, consisting of only one hide less half a virgate. There was one carcate of land. One plough was kept, with two bordars and one servant; and woods for twenty-four hogs. Holden of Fitz Ausculf by Hervey, as his subfeudatory. It was then and had been rated at 12/-; in the time of Edward at 20/-. This land, Godwin, a man of Vlf, had holden, and could sell it.

Pagan also held of the same William, half a virgate. There were two oxgangs of land, and two of pasture with wood for five hogs (not called a manor), but rated at two shillings; and in the time of Edward at the same rent, by the same person. This land had been holden by Godric, a man of Oswy, who could sell it.

Baldwin held likewise one hide of the same William for a manor; which contained one carcate of land; and one plough was kept there, with three villeins; which were and had been constantly rated at one mark of silver. This manor had been formerly in the tenure of three brothers; one of them, a man of Tosti; and two men of Baldwin, who could sell their land. Of this, half a virgate had been given to the monastery of St. Firmin, of Crawley, and was settled thereupon in the time of Edward.

The lands of Hugh de Bolebec here, and holden by Hugh as half a virgate, were not denominated a manor, but were sufficient for two oxgangs, with wood for five hogs. It had been, and at the Norman Survey, was rated at two shillings. Ulgrim, a man of the Earl Lewin, had before holden it, and could sell it.

The Countess Judith also possessed an estate here, but not called a manor, which Morcar held, as her subfeudatory, for one hide and one virgate of land. There was one carcate. One plough was kept, with three villeins and one bordar; one carcate of pasture, and wood for fifty hogs. It was and had been valued at 10/- and in the time of Edward at 20/-. The same subfeudatory had holden it in Edward's time, and could sell it, without license of his chief lord.

In an account of the family of Boteler, of Walden, in a manuscript in

the possession of a late Earl of Peterborough, it is stated that Geoffrey Boteler, John, and Richard, were brothers; that Geoffrey had issue, William and Elizabeth; that William being enfeoffed in all those lands in Walden and Ashden, which the said John and Richard, his uncles, after the death, without issue, of the said William had released to Richard Boteler and John Keignys. That the two last mentioned gave these lands to John Strange, or Le Strange, and the said Elizabeth and her lawful issue; and afterwards, that John Le Strange, of Brockle, gave, by deed dated at Walden next before the feast of the Annunciation of B.V.M., 1370, these lands to one John Waryn (Warren?) and Elizabeth his wife, in tail; with remainder, in default of issue, to Agnes Mordaunt, sister of the said Elizabeth (mother of the said Elizabeth and Agnes), and their right heirs, by deed dated on Sunday before Michaelmas 1387; that Elizabeth Waryn died without issue, of her body; that Agnes had issue, Robert Mordaunt; that Robert had issue, William; and William left John Mordaunt, denominated in bosco.

Ecclesiastical History of Hardmead.

The advowson, which had been given, with the manor, to the priory of Merton, by the family of Windsor, remained vested in the convent, by which society the respective presentations to the rectory were regularly made, until Henry VIII., having determined upon the suppression of the monasteries, made a forced exchange with William Lord Windsor who surrendered Hardmead, with lands in Boveney, Horton, Wyrardesbury, and Burnham, to the king; and by patent, in 1543, obtained a grant of a part of the lands of St. Mary Overy, in Stoke Poges, in return. In 1544, a fine was passed between the king, claimant, and William Windsor, knight, Lord Windsor, deforcients, of 20 messuages, 1,000 acres of land, 300 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, and 100 acres of furze, in Hardmead, Boveney, Horton, Wyrardesbury, and Burnham, for which the king gave to Lord Windsor certain marks of silver. And by patent, in the same year, 1544, the king granted the advowson of the rectory of Hardmead, and lands there, and in Filgrave and Lathbury, late belonging to the abbey of Lavendon, to Thomas Lane; by whom, about 1550, it was conveyed to Thomas Ardys, who is presumed to have left it to his son, Edward Ardys, he having exercised the right of patronage in 1552, 1560, and 1563; and about 1570, Ardys conveyed it to the Catesbys, by whom the manor had been previously acquired.

The Catesbys appear to have obtained the estate of Hardmead through the marriage of William Catesby to Margaret, daughter of Lord Zouche. This William died in 1485; and was buried in the church, as were also many of his descendants; of whom Thomas Catesby obtained a grant, both of the advowson and manor, from Henry VIII., in 1544; and died possessed in 1577. Another Thomas Catesby, supposed son of Francis, and grand-son of the former Thomas, in 1670, sold these possessions to Sir John Maynard, knight, sergeant-at-law in the time of Cromwell and Charles II.; and passed, by the marriage

of his grand-daughter, the daughter of Joseph Maynard, of Clifton Reynes (after having been intermediately transferred to Alexander Small, surgeon to Chelsea Hospital, and the right of patronage exercised by the trustees and guardians of his infant son, Alexander Small, in 1759), to Sir Henry Hobart, knight and fourth bart. ; and afterwards, his son, Sir John Hobart, fifth bart., exercised the patronage in 1721. He was elected in 1725, K.B. ; in 1728, made Baron Hobart of Blickling ; and in 1746, Earl of Buckinghamshire ; and so continued in his successors, the Barons Hobart and Earls of Buckinghamshire, until 1792 ; in which year the estate and advowson were purchased by the Right Hon. Robert Earl of Kinnoul ; whose son the Hon. Thomas Robert Hay Drummond, having succeeded to the titles and estates of his father in 1804, soon afterwards sold the advowson to Robert Sheddon, of Gower Street, in Middlesex ; in whose family it remains.

Rectors of Hardmead.

GILBERTUS, presented in 1223, by the convent of Merton, "ad Eccliam de Hardmead."
WALTER DE DENE died in 1262.

RALPH DE FREINGHAM, presented by the convent of Merton, in 1262.
GEOFFRY died in 1311.

JOHN DE MERTON, instituted 3 November 1311, on the presentation of the convent of Merton. At his cession

WALTER DE DRAYTON succeeded 5 March 1315. He exchanged for a moiety of Danbury, in London Diocese, with

WILLIAM DE CASTLETON, 2 August 1318 ; he died in 1329 ; and was succeeded by

JOHN DE CLIPSTONE, instituted 17 February 1329. He resigned in 1330.

HENRY DE SWINFORD succeeded 1 December 1330 ; on his cession,

JOHN DE TONEWORTH was instituted October 1341. He died ; and

WILLIAM DE HANLEY was instituted 4 August 1349. He exchanged for Scholingham, in Nottinghamshire, with

ADAM DE NAVESBY, 13 June 1354. He resigned in 1357 ; and was succeeded by

JOHN TYBOTIS, who resigned 2 August 1357 ; and dying,

WILLIAM CHAMPENEYS was instituted November 1358. He exchanged for another benefice, with

JOHN DE PEDERTON, alias WINCHECOMBE 12 October 1359, who exchanged for Stoke Dennis, in Somersetshire, with

JOHN DE MEDELTON, 12 January 1366 ; and died in 1375. He was succeeded by

JOHN DE PECHE, presented 13 November 1375. At whose death,

JOHN MANSEL was instituted 10 April 1388. He resigned ; and

THOMAS BOTILER, was instituted 26 February 1411. He also resigned ; and

THOMAS ALLEN was instituted 21 November 1413. On his cession,

WILLIAM BARTON, was instituted 12 April 1414 ; and on his resignation,

THOMAS FOWKER was instituted 7 September 1414.

EDMUND FOXTON resigned in 1447.

WILLIAM BOTILER, presented 10 July 1447.

RICHARD SIMPSON resigned in 1465.

JOHN COWPER succeeded 14 August 1465. He died ; and

ROBERT STORY was instituted 27 November 1483. On his cession,

JOHN KIRKBY was instituted 23 April 1486.

JOHN FREEMAN occurs rector in 1520. He died ; and

JOHN WESTWOOD was instituted 29 October 1525 ; and on his cession,

EDWARD DICCONSON, B.A., was instituted 2 December 1529, as his predecessors were, by the convent of Merton ; and at his death,

WILLIAM SMITH was instituted 2 May 1541, on the presentation of the king ; and at his death, was succeeded by

WILLIAM HARNAYS, instituted 10 January 1552, on the presentation of Edward

- Ardys. At his death,
 WILLIAM MOTT was presented 14 March 1560, by the same patron. He resigned ; and
 ROBERT RAVNSFORD was presented in 1563, by the same patron : and at his decease, his successor was
 WILLIAM FOWLER, instituted 10 May 1604, on the presentation of Thomas Catesby. He occurs rector in 1650 ; and was buried here, 18 October 1562 ; being succeeded by
 RICHARD KEARSEY, M.A., inducted 2 December 1652 ; who was rector in 1655 ; and died in 1668 ; being also rector of Toddington, Bedfordshire, where he resided.
 JOHN PATEMAN, B.A., instituted 16 August 1668, inducted 18 August, on the presentation of Mr. Catesby. He died rector ; and was buried 25 February 1720-1. He had been previously curate here ; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM SELTH, M.A., presented 1 July 1721, by Sir John Hobart, bart. ; on his resignation
 JOSEPH WARD, B.A., was instituted 1 November 1722, and inducted 3 November on the presentation of the same patron. On his cession,
 JOHN MINGAY, B.A., was instituted 5 August 1725, on the same presentation ; but quitted it for a benefice in Norfolk. On his cession,
 EDWARD ALANSON, M.A., was instituted 31 December 1729, on the presentation of John Lord Hobart, Baron of Blickling. He was also rector of Clifton Reynes ; and was buried 15 August 1745.
 ROBERT FOWLKES, M.A., inducted 30 May 1746, on the presentation of the Right Hon John Lord Hobart. He resigned ; and was succeeded by
 THOMAS CHAPMAN, LL.D., inducted 12 July 1745, on the presentation of the Right Hon John Earl of Buckinghamshire. He resigned ; and was succeeded by
 ROGER STURGEON, M.A., inducted 27 April 1750, on the same presentation. He died ; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM GARDNER, M.A., inducted 18 May 1759, on the presentation of Alexander Small, an infant, by the consent of Martha Owen, his guardian ; at his death,
 THOMAS RADFORD, M.A., was inducted 12 July 1802, on the presentation of the Right Hon Robert Earl of Kinnoul. He died ; and was succeeded by
 BARTLET GOODRICK, M.A., inducted 19 April 1817, on the presentation of the executors of the late Robert Sheddon, at his death, he was succeeded by his son,
 BARTLET GEORGE GOODRICK, B.A., who was instituted in 1856.

St. Mary's Church, Hardmead,

The church, which dates from the 12th Century, appears to have consisted originally of chancel, nave, with north aisle, and western tower. In the 14th Century a south aisle was added, with embattled clerestory, embattlements were also added to the tower. The font dates from the same period. Fragments of an earlier font, Norman, which were found, have been built in at the doorway of the south porch.

In the years 1860-1 the whole church which was much delapidated, was restored. New roofs were placed over the chancel and nave, while the aisle roofs were made good with the old material, and some carved bosses from the old refixed. Three new windows were put in the east end of the chancel, which has evidently fallen at some time, and the meanest windows had been placed. The whole of the interior fittings, which were most poor and unsuitable, were removed, and replaced by good oak choir stalls in the chancel, with prayer desk, lectern, litany desk and pulpit handsomely carved. Some good solid old oak seats were restored in their original position, and the rest of the church was re-seated with solid oak to match the old. The two windows in the chancel, which are original, are good. That on the north

has a few fragments of good old stained glass. It is mentioned by Lipscombe that the east window contained an effigy of the blessed virgin Mary. All trace of this must have been lost when the east end fell. Some fragments, however of the old mullions were discovered in the chimneys of the old rectory house, sufficient to guide the architect in drawing the new, thus reproducing, as he thought, the original east window. When the chancel was restored, a monument to Francis Catesby dec. 1636, was removed to the north aisle. It had evidently been before removed, and was most inconveniently built up against the altar. This monument, profusely ornamented, contains in a recess the recumbent figure of a man with his hands clasped in prayer, and a curious latin inscription. On the south wall opposite, there was built into the wall a memorial brass of another Francis Catesby. This brass is mentioned by Lipscombe as being in the centre of the chancel. It had been lost, and was found in a cottage at Clifton Reynes. It is the effigy of a man, beneath which is an inscription, requesting prayers for the soul of Francis Catesby.



Of your churchye pray for the Soule of Francis ;
 Catefby of Hardmeede Gent the Youngest sonne of
 Antony Catefbye of Wyllynton Esquier Deceffyd &
 whiche Francis Deceffyd the xxj day of August in
 the yere of oure Lord God a MCCCCLxj , On
 whose Soule and all Chritten god have Mercy ame

On the north wall of the chancel are two neat marble tablets to the memory of members of the Shedden family.

There are three bells in the tower inscribed :

First : VOX AVGVSTINI SONET IN AVRE DEI.

Second : SANCTA MARIA ORA P NOBIS.

Third : VOCOR IOHANES. This is a 14th Century bell.

There is also an empty bell carriage. There is an unauthenticated tradition about this missing bell, that it lies embedded in the moat on the north side of the church, which surrounded the ancient home of the Catesbys, that was demolished about 150 years ago.

In the tower is kept the bier which is still used for burials. This relic of antiquity has the following carved upon the frame work :

ROBERD HEYNAND FRANCES PURNNY CHVRCHWARNS
T C 1670 WS WC

In the church yard, on the south side of the church, is a fine specimen of *Wellingtonia gigantea*, which was planted by the late Sir Samuel Wilberforce, in 1861, upon the re-opening of the church after its restoration.

The old parish registers date from 1555, and are complete to the present time.

Hardmead Rectory.

The rectory is rated in the King's books at £13/0/10½, and is now of the yearly net value of £103. The tithes were commuted for £177/13/-, and there are 21 acres of glebe land.

The rectory house was erected in 1858, and is of red brick with stone dressings, in the Domestic Gothic style. It is situated a short distance north-west from the church. In taking down the old parsonage, the mullions of the chancel windows were discovered, forming a portion of a fire-place.

Hardmead Charity.

The poor have a rent-charge of £2 a year, left by an unknown donor, and issuant out of the manorial estate.



ASTWOOD.



ASTWOOD is situated near the northern extremity of the county; being bounded on the north and east, by Bedfordshire; by North Crawley on the south; and by Hardmead on the west. The village is on the road out of Bedford to Chicheley and Sherington, where it falls in with the great northern turn-pike between Newport Pagnell and Olney. It is 6 miles north-east, from Newport Pagnell; and 6 miles south-east from Olney. It occupies a small projecting point of the Newport Hundred, on the eastern border, as its name seems to indicate; Astwood, that is Eastwood, formed a peninsular projection about the middle of the modern Hundred, and in the ancient division called Moulsho. The population in 1891, was 187. The area is 1,281 acres.

Manorial History of Astwood.

The manor was surveyed in Hardmead, now a distinct parish, in 1082, as the land of William Fitz Ausculf, under its ancient name Herouldmede; in which Hervey held under him one hide, excepting half a virgate, as a manor. Here was one carucate; and a plough was kept with two villeins, two bordars, and one servant; and woods for 24 hogs. It was and had been rated at 12/-; in the days of king Edward at 20/-. This land had been, in the Saxon times, holden by Godwin, a man of Ulf, and he could sell it.

In the same ville, Pagan held also, under the same lord, half a virgate. There were two oxgangs of land, and they were kept there with pasture for two oxen; with wood for five hogs. It was then rated at 2/-, but in the time of king Edward, at £2. This land, Godric, a man of Oswi, had holden, and could sell it.

This estate descended from Fitz Ausculf to the family of Paganel. Fulk Paganel had a grandson, Gervase, who, in 1182, confirmed to the monks of Tickford, the chapel of *Estwode*, which seems to be the first mention of this place in ecclesiastical history.

From the Paganels, this manor passed in marriage to the family of Somery. Roger de Somery held this estate in 1272; and the same Roger, or one of the same name, in 1290; and it continued in that line until John de Somery was possessed in 1342. A fine was levied about three years afterwards between William de Northwell, clerk, and Robert de Rokeley, of this manor, and also of the church, manor and advowson (presumed to be the ecclesiastical manor), to the use of William de Northwell; but the marriage of the Suttons, Barons of Dudley, with the Bottetourts, brought this manor into the latter family, Margaret, wife of John Sutton, and Joan, wife of Thomas Bottetourt, having, by

an inquisition, been returned as sisters and co-heirs of Roger Somery ; nevertheless, the manor called Rokeley's had been dis-severed from the original manor of Fitz Ausculf ; and Robert de Rokeley, in 1345, levied a fine of Rokeley's manor, which he had either inherited or obtained by purchase from the Suttons ; but it was not until the reign of Richard II. that, by the marriage of a daughter of Rokeley, it passed to Richard Alban. Towards the close of the reign of Henry VI., this estate coming to the family of Ingleton, lords of Thornton, at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. passed in marriage with Jane daughter of Robert Ingleton, to Humphrey Tyrrell ; whose son and heir, George Tyrrell, by deed dated 6 May 1558, transferred the same to Richard Chibnall, son of Thomas Chibnall ; who was an inhabitant of this place and was buried in Astwood church, in 1553. Thomas Chibnall, grandson of Richard, by lease and release, dated 27 and 28 June 1667, sold it to John Trevor and John Upton, in trust, for the use of John Thurloe, late secretary to Oliver Cromwell, lord protector ; and it passed by the marriage, after his death, of his daughter Anne, to Francis Brace, attorney-at-law, of Bedford. John Thurloe Brace, her son, was possessed of this estate in 1735, holden as of the manor of Newport Pagnell and honour of Amphill.

The Manor of Astwood Bury,

Which was the property of Joane, wife of Thomas Bottetourt. sister and co-heir of Roger de Somery, the last heir male of that family, passed to the Barons Zouche, of Harringworth, who held it from the reign of Henry VI., to 1538, when John Lord Zouche, by deed dated 27 November, 1538, sold the manor of Astwood Bury to Edmund Hazelwood ; who, in February 1540, conveyed it to Thomas Norwood. His descendant, Tyringham Norwood, after having spent much money on the manor-house (supposed to have been built by the last of the Zouches), sold it, about 1622, to Alderman Samuel Cranmer, brewer, in London ; who by an inquisition taken at his death, 7 April 1640, was returned to have died possessed of the manor of Astwood Bury, alias Atywood, and that he held the same in soccage of Edward Lord Dudley ; that Cæsar Cranmer, his son and heir, was of the age of six years ; which Cæsar (afterwards knighted, temp. Charles II.), mortgaged all his estate here to Sarah, relict of John Seymour, Duke of Somerset ; who afterwards intermarried with Lord Coleraine, and bequeathed all her right and interest in this estate to Langham Booth, brother to the Earl of Warrington. His trustee having first foreclosed the equity of redemption from the family of Cranmer, sold it in October 1715, to William Lowndes, junr., one of the clerks of the Treasury, and afterwards auditor of the Court of Exchequer, who was the possessor in 1744. He died in 1775 ; and his eldest son, William Lowndes, who had assumed the name of Stone, in addition to Lowndes, having died in 1772, left an only son, William, who died in 1836 ; leaving his eldest son, William Lowndes Stone (great-grandson and heir-at-law of Auditor Lowndes), the possessor of the manor of Astwood Bury.

Ecclesiastical History.

Astwood is a vicarage, in the presentation of the crown. The church was founded on the lands of Fulk Paganel, and given by him to the monastery of Tickford. In the charter of Gervase Paganel, dated 1187, it is called "Capella de Estwode."

In the taxation of Pope Nicholas, 1291, the entry is "Eccl'ia de Astwode, £6/13/4" but no mention is made of a vicarage, so that it is not certain whether it was then endowed.

The presentations of this vicarage continued to be made by the prior and convent of Tickford (except when the temporalities of the priory were in the hands of the crown), till the dissolution of that religious house in 1526, when all its possessions, including the chapel, were given to Cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his colleges at Ipswich and Oxford.

The advowson was given to the cardinal's College in Oxford, and the dean and chapter presented to the vicarage in 1527, 1528, 1533, and 1535. The subsequent presentations have all been made by the crown. The vicarage is rated, in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. at £6/6/8.

The rectory of Astwood was granted, by letters patent, dated 28 September, by Queen Elizabeth, in the 29th year of her reign, to Charles Bagot and Bartholomew Yardley, at a reserved rent of 13/4 per annum; yet, in a terrier dated 1674, and signed by Francis King, vicar, it is stated that, "to the vicarage belongs the tithe of the whole parish."

The approximate value of the living at the present time is £187, and net value £162 per annum.

Vicars of Astwood.

THOMAS DE NEWPORT, instituted 1222, on the presentation of the convent of Tickford.

THOMAS occurs vicar in 1298, and died in 1317.

ARNOLDUS DE BELLE VILLE, instituted 4 Oct. 1317, he resigned for Newport Pagnell.

JOHN COLE, instituted 11 Jan. 1319: exchanged for Newport Vicarage with ARNOLDUS DE BELLE VILLE, who was instituted a second time in May, 1329.

WILLIAM WINYAN was instituted in 1338 on the king's presentation.

RICHARD, or RALPH MORTON, succeeded in 1340; and died vicar in 1346.

JOHN DE SYETHORP was instituted, March 1346, on the presentation of the king, on account of having the temporalities of Tickford priory in his hands, by reason of the wars with France. He resigned and

ADAM DE FLANNBERG was instituted 8 Jan. 1347. At his decease

WILLIAM PAYNE DE STANTON was instituted 13 Sep. 1349, the temporalities of Tickford being still in the king's hands, on his cession

ROGER KEPE was instituted 11 Nov. 1351.

JOHORNNES FITZ PHILLIPPI was instituted 7 Sep. 1353.

RICHARD COVENE was instituted 15 May 1382, on the presentation of the king. He exchanged for Fakenhurst, in Kent, with

JOHN WALTONSHURST, 12 Aug. 1385; who exchanged for Clophill, Beds, with

WILLIAM WALLMAN, 18 Nov. 1388, on his resignation he was succeeded by

JOHN COOK, 12 June 1397, presented by the king; and at his death,

THOMAS SPENCER was instituted 30 Oct. 1440, on the presentation of the convent of Tickford.

JOHN BRIAN succeeded about 1460; on his resignation,

WILLIAM RYPON was instituted May 9, 1467.

THOMAS HANKEY was instituted Jan 10, 1469. He resigned; and

JOHN KIRKBY was instituted July 16, 1474.

..... ARNOLD was instituted June 1480, and, on his cession

HUGH BURTON was instituted Nov. 19, 1485.

ROBERT GOSTWICK, instituted Nov. 5, 1496. He resigned; and

HENRY WYDONS was instituted Dec. 7, 1500. He died; and

ROBERT WYDDENS was instituted 21 May, 1505.

RICHARD WATER was instituted 24 March 1527, on the presentation of the dean and canons of King's College, Oxford, at his resignation.

THOMAS STEVEN was instituted Feb. 11, 1535. He occurs vicar in 1552.

WILLIAM MOTTE, instituted Dec. 2, 1554, on the presentation of the bishop by lapse.

RICHARD RAYNSFORD succeeded in 1566 or 1567; and quitted it for Hardwick.

THOMAS POTTER was presented by queen Elizabeth, and instituted 23 August 1573, on his cession

GEORGE RICHARDSON was instituted 24 June 1574, on the presentation of Reginald

..... He occurs vicar in 1607. He died; and

ROGER BARKER, M.A., of All Soul's College, Oxon, was instituted 24 September 1613, on the presentation of the king.

FRANCIS KING was vicar before 1660, and occurs in 1666; at his death

GEORGE WHITE, M.A., was instituted 16 February 1689, on the king's presentation. At his decease

WILLIAM POMFRET, B.A., was presented by the king and queen, and instituted 27 May 1689. He was buried here December 21, 1704.

ROBERT WOODWARD, M.A., instituted 5 January 1704, on the queen's presentation. He resigned; and

WILLIAM NEVILL was instituted 23 December 1706, on the presentation of the queen. He died here and was buried in the church; being succeeded by his son

WILLIAM NEVILL, M.A., inducted 1 September 1726, on the presentation of George III. He had been fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.

THOMAS LOWNDES, LL.B., instituted in 1752. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, son of William Lowndes of this parish; rector of North Crawley in 1771; and died 27 December 1797, æt 73; being succeeded by

ROBERT LOWNDES, LL.B., instituted 23 February 1798, on the presentation of the king. At his death

S. F. CUMBERLEGE, M.A., was presented in 1839, by the Lord High Chancellor.

CHARLES CUMBERLEGE WARE was presented in 1856. He was succeeded by W. H. VERON who was instituted in 1871.

C. W. CAHUSAC, M.A., was presented in 1877.

GEORGE MORLEY, was presented in 1891. He resigned, and

HECTOR MAWSON, was instituted upon the presentation of the Lord Chancellor, in 1893.

St. Peter's Church, Astwood.

The church is an ancient edifice, comprising a chancel, clerestoried nave, south aisle and porch, and a tower at the west end. The tower, nave and aisle are embattled, and covered with lead; the chancel has a tiled gable roof. The tower, which is in the Decorated style, with a demi-octagonal stair turret at its north-west corner, contains a clock and three bells inscribed:

First: ✠ SANCTA KATERINA ORA PRO NOBIS.

Second: ✠ SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTVM.

Third: ✠ GOD SAVE OVR KING 1631 I K.

The porch is modern. The nave is lighted by six three-light windows in the clerestory; and the nave and aisle are divided by four pointed arches, supported by the three short quadruple pillars. These

columns and arches are in the Decorated style; as are also the windows on the south side, of two and three lights. The clerestory and roof are Perpendicular, with flat arches to the windows, and good moulded ribs to the roof. The tower arch, open to the nave, is lofty; the chancel arch rests on demi-circular columns. Some of the old-oak benches remain. The font, which is large and square, but quite plain, is supported on four circular shafts with moulded caps and bases. The



Of your charite Pray for the soule of Thomas Chibrale & for the
soules of Enme & Alice his wyfes whiche thomas decessed y^e xiiij day
of January the yere of our lord god a thousand fybe hundred & xxxiiij.

*Cur caro letatur du bermibz esca paratur
Terre terra datur caro nascitur bt moriatur
Terram terra tegat demon pcca refumat
Mundus res habeat spirit' alta petat.*



chancel is small; the east window is of three lights, with good tracery in the head; the ceiling is one of open rafters with sunk plaster panels; and the piscina and ambry remain in the south wall.

A fragment of the old stoupe remains near the south door, at the east end of the south wall of the aisle is a piscina and ambry, thus showing this to have been the lady chapel.

In the floor of the south aisle, partly covered by a pew, is a large sepulchral slab, which had the effigies of a man between two females, and the emblems of SS. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John at the corners. The symbolical emblems of SS. Mark and John are lost: the remaining metallic portion of this memorial is carefully placed upon the east wall of the aisle, and is inscribed in the usual black letters.

Upon the north wall of the nave is a fragment of a brass, inscribed:

*Hic iacet Rogerus Heston qui obiit
.. tano die mensis Septembr An ..
domini Willmo CCCC Nono cuius
Anime ppicietur deus Amen.*

There are several monuments of the family of Lowndes of Astwood Bury, and also of the Layton family, to whom they were allied. Amongst the former is a mural monument, having on the pediment a bust, in high relief, of an aged man, in a large close-bottomed wig; and above it the crest: On a wreath, a lion's head erased, with a sprig of laurel in its mouth. The inscription reads:

Sacred to the memory of William Lowndes, of Astwood-bury, Esq., who was more than 53 years the Husband of Margaret, only daughter of Thomas Layton, Esq. of the same parish. He lived with a true sense of real happiness in the social love and affection of her the best of wives, whose virtues are truly, but not fully described on the adjoining monument. He now lies interred with her in the same grave. He was the younger son of a most honoured Father, William Lowndes, of Winslow, in the County of Bucks, Esq. Secretary of the Treasury in the reigns of King William 3^d Queen Anne, and King George 1st which employment for many years he executed with fidelity, skill, honour, and abilities, as well in office as in Parliament, for the true Interest and Service of his County, and to which just character of him may properly be added the following entry from the Journals of the House of Commons, 22 Jan^y. 1723; "Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer acquainted the House, that this House had lost a very useful member, and the Public as able and honest a Servant as ever the Crown had, by the death of William Lowndes, Esq." He died 20 Jan^y. 1723 in the 72^d year of his age, and lies buried at Winslow, amongst diver of his ancestors.

The above William Lowndes, Esq., of this Parish held and enjoyed for 45 years the office of one of the auditors of the Court of Exchequer, granted to him for life, in reversion, by the aforesaid Queen Anne. He died the 6th day of March 1795, in the 88th year of his age, with humble hopes of a joyful resurrection to eternal life. Amen.

On the north side of the chancel is a monument to Samuel Cranmer,* of Astwood Bury. The arms: Arg. on a chev. Az. three quatrefoils, between three pelicans S. vulning themselves: impaling three savage men girdled Vert. each holding a shield Arg. charged with cross Gu. The inscription is:

Here under lyeth the body of Samuell Cranmer, Esq. He was born at Aulcester in

* The inscription on Alderman Cranmer's tomb is wrong. He is there erroneously stated to descend from Richard, elder brother of the Archbishop: whereas he really did descend from Richard, second son of John, elder brother of the Archbishop. The Archbishop had no brother named Richard.

the county of Warwick, about the year 1575, and dyed A^{no} 1640. He descended in a direct line from Richard Cranmer, elder brother of Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury. He was first marryed to the Widd. of Mr Enyon, but she dying without issue by him, he afterwards marryed Mary, the daughter of Thomas Wood, of Hackney, in Com. Midd. Esq. by whome he had two children, Cæsar and Mary.

Here lyeth also Mary his second wife. She was born at Hackney, in August 1604, and dyed in Aprill 1684, being the last year of the reign of king Charles II.

After the death of Samuell Cranmer, Esq. she married Sr Henry Chester, Knt., of the Bath, 3^d son of Sr Anthony Chester, of Chicheley, in Com., Bucks, Bart., whome she survived.

Verita non querit angulos ; Fortis est veritas.

Et prævalebit sed Genus et proavos et quæ non

Fecimus Ipsi vix ea nostra voco

Hoc posuit monumentum Cæsar Wood At^{eo} Cranmer Miles in patris et matris sui memoriam. An^o Dom. 1685 annog : primo *Jacobi secundi* Regis. Defunctorum este memores, ut in pace requiescant.

The church yard is the prettiest in this part of the Hundreds, and is planted with ornamental evergreens ; and the north side of the church is completely ivy-mantled. Opposite the porch is the base of an ancient cross. To the east of this is a curious grave stone with a nude figure, endeavouring to get out of a coffin, carved in bold relief. The inscription reads : Here lieth the Body of Richard, the son of Richard Kilpin, who died Octr. y^e 23d, 1724, Aged 29 years.

Youth might have hoped,
longer time to see ;
But in this world,
all things uncertain be.

The register begins in the year 1666, and contains amongst the entries, the following :

Cæsar, son of Cæsar Cranmer, Esq., bur. 19 Oct., 1667.

William Pomfret, clerk, vicar of parish, bur. 2 Dec., 1704.

Sir Cæsar Cranmer, bur. 19 August, 1707.

Five pounds were left as a Charitable Benefaction, by Clara Lowndes, who died 25 Aug., 1794.

In the register is an inventory, dated 3 May 1782, made by order of Luke Heslop, B.D., archdeacon of Bucks, of goods and effects belonging to the church of Astwood, viz.

A communion service ; a square table covered with green cloth, fringed ; a silver cup with a cover : a silver hafted knife and fork ; a pewter plate ; a table cloth ; a napkin and towel, together with a hand-box for collecting alms, &c., Vestments ; a surplice ; a silk hood ; a velvet cushion for the pulpit ; hangings for the reading-desk ; and a Bible, Common Prayer Book, and Bishop Jewel's Defence and Refuge.

In the tower, are three bells and a clock, of which the dial plate is on the north front of the tower. The inventory is signed by Thomas Lowndes, vicar ; and John Harting, Thomas W. Ch. Wardens.

Astwoodbury House.

Astwoodbury House, the seat of the Norwood, Cranmer, and Lowndes families, which is described by Browne Willis as one of the finest old mansions in the county, was taken down in 1799. This mansion was

of very large dimensions judging from the excavations that are surrounded by portions of the principal moat, which is much wider than the two contiguous ones that were, in earlier days, used, one to safeguard the live stock, and the other, the crops. Carp still abound in one portion of the larger fosse. The fishpond, too, is still traceable at the bottom of the field, nearer the village. The site actually covered by the residence is known as "The Green." One of the old outbuildings build of wood and brick, still remains; this has been converted into four cottages. The dovecote still stands, and excites the curiosity of passing strangers by its conversion into two cottages. Unlike the more antiquated dovecote at Clifton Reynes, this is built in an octangular form, with red brick, and of mathematical precision. The interior contained upwards of three hundred nesting places. A large beam standing in the centre, was equipped with spiral steps, by which access was gained to the nests. The avenue still retains its old trees and denotes the direction of the chief entrance.

The Manor House, Astwood.

This was a very large residence, this having become so delapidated, Mrs. Williams found it necessary to pull it down and build a farm house on the site, near the village green.



Varieties of the snail *Helix hortensis*, that abound throughout the Newport Hundreds.

NORTH CRAWLEY.

THIS parish is the third in size in the Newport Hundreds, being 3,366 acres. The population in 1851 numbered 914; and in 1891, 622 persons. It is bounded on the north, by Chicheley, Hardmead, and Astwood; on the east, by Bedfordshire; on the south, by Moulsoe; and on the west, by Newport Pagnell and Chicheley. The village is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east from Newport Pagnell; and 6 miles south-east from Olney. It is large and scattered, and is situated upon a lofty ridge of land. It is in the civil jurisdiction of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Newport, archdeacony of Buckingham, and the Oxford diocese. The congregationalists have a chapel here.

Manorial History of North Crawley.

Here were anciently three manors; but the only account which is found in Domesday Book, describes this place as four hides of land, holden under William Fitz Ausculf by William his subfeudatory, for one manor, which, in the Saxon times, had been holden by two thanes, Herald and Alwi, who could sell it. Here were four carucates of land, one in the demesne; and seven villeins with six bordars had three carucates. There was one servant, and a mill of 20/- rent; three carucates of pasture; woods for one hundred and fifty hogs; and sixteen pence rents. It was and had been estimated at forty shillings; and in the time of Edward, at £4.

It has been supposed, that Crawley was, at the time of the Conquest, included in Chicheley and Hardmead; in which latter parish, the land of a small religious house dedicated to St. Firmin, is said to have been situated.

The principal manor is presumed to have been part of the honour of Gloucester; and it is supposed, that it had formerly belonged to the Rivers, or de Redvers family, earls of Devonshire; and passed, by Isabella de Fortibus, sister and heir of Baldwin de Redvers, who was grand-daughter of Robert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, and wife of William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarle.

In 1108 the manor of Crawley was in possession of the Filliols, or Filiols; who probably derived their names from the Latin *filiolus*, or the French *filluel* (a godson); which supposition is, in some measure, corroborated by the seal appended to a grant of William Filiol, to Coggeshall abbey; having the representation of a font, with a king on one side, and a bishop on the other, holding a child, as in the ceremony of baptism. The name appears in the Roll of Battle Abbey, amongst those who came to England with William the Conqueror; but in a list of them, at the end of a life of William, by D'Eudemare, which appears of the best authority, that name is not to be found.

The first of this name and family that occurs, is Robert Fillol, or Filiol, who held lands in Leaden Roding, about the time of Stephen.

Little Crawley.

Little Crawley is sometimes called Pateshull's manor, Elizabeth Wake being one of the sisters and co-heiress of William Pateshull who was possessed of this manor in 1360.

By an inquisition at Newport Pagnell, 16 September 1610, George Annesley, gent., was returned to have died possessed of £13/10/- per annum in the manor of Patteshull, alias Little Crawley, in North Crawley and Chicheley; and left James Annesley, his son and heir, who was forty years of age at the time of his father's death.

In Crawley the Countess of Oxford held one knight's-fee of Richard earl of Clare, and the earl received scutage for the same. In Little Crawley, Geoffrey de Beauchamp held half one knight's-fee of the new feoffment of the lord the king, of the liberty of Dudley and of the fee of Say: Richard de Lindesey also held the fourth part of a knight's-fee of the same honour; and Robert de Hercy held the fourth part of one knight's-fee in Crawley, of Henry de Hastings, of the honour of Huntingdon. By an inquisition holden at Aylesbury, 24 April 1585, Thomas Tyringham, was returned to have died possessed of the manor of North Crawley, and view of frankpledge there; and of two messuages and 150 acres in Wavendon, held by the earl of Oxford, as of the honour of Whitchurch, by fealty, and an unknown service; and his son and heir was Anthony. At a later period this estate passed from the Duncombes to the Lowndes.

Ecclesiastical History of Crawley.

The advowson belonged to the earls of Devon in 1294. It afterwards came to the Filiols, who presented to the living in 1327; but the Broughtons, lords of a second manor here, had an alternative turn, which they granted, in 1244, to the priory of Caldwell; and that convent, *inter annos* 1249 and 1251, gave up their interest herein to the Filiols; so that family became possessed of the entire patronage, till they parted with it to Bohuns, barons of Midhurst, in Sussex, about 1350. From the Bohuns, this advowson, together with their manor here, came, in Henry VII's reign, to Sir David Owen and Sir Robert Southwell, by marriage of the two daughters and heiresses of the last of the Bohuns; who sold their right in the manor and advowson to Sir Robert Dormer about 1530; and the Dormers in queen Elizabeth's time, separating the manor and advowson, sold the latter to Dr. John Herks, the rector, about 1580; whose son, Garbrand Herks, conveyed it to Roger Hacket, D.D., his father's successor in the rectory; in which family it remained, until it came in marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Nicholas Hacket, about 1708, to Sir Nicholas Carew. Sir Nicholas sold it to William Temple, about 1718; and Temple about three years afterwards (1721), transferred it to William Lowndes.

One of the articles of impeachment against Cardinal Wolsey, charged him, that whereas, Sir Edward Jones, clerk, parson of Crawley had

(1527) let his parsonage with the tithes and profits thereof to William Johnson, for a certain term, within which, the dean of the Lord Cardinal's College, in Oxford, pretended to have a title to a certain portion of the tithes there, supposing the same to belong to the parsonage of Chicheley (appropriated to the priory of Tykford, then lately suppressed); and whereas, the parsons of Crawley had been peaceably possessed of the tithes time out of mind; and a subpoena being obtained to compel Johnson to appear before the cardinal at Hampton Court, the lord cardinal there, without any bill, committed him to the Fleet, where he remained twelve weeks, because he would not part with his said tithes; and at last (upon recognisance, made to appear before the cardinal wheresoever he was commanded), he was delivered out of the court, but that the said portion of tithes was still kept from him.

The living is a rectory. In the Liber Regis the rectory is valued at £27/10/-, and in the Clergy List of the present date it is stated to be worth £230 per annum. The tithes were commuted for land at the inclosure of the parish in 1772.

The rectory house was built in 1800; it is a fine building and delightfully situated in pleasant grounds which command most extensive prospects.

Rectors of North Crawley.

PETER DE GUILDFORD, presented 1294, by Isabella de Fortibus.

ROGER FILIOL died 1321.

RALPH FILIOL, presented 5 May 1322, by John Filiol.

THOMAS DE BRADBOURNE, presented 3 May 1350, by Sir Thomas Bohun, knt.

JOHN DE WHITEWAY, presented 3 October 1361.

JOHN CLERKE, presented 22 February 1381.

THOMAS SEYBROOK, presented 30 January 1383, by the king. He resigned; and

JOHN DE BURTON was presented 4 March 1383.

HENRY MAUPAS, presented 12 August 1386, but resigned the same month.

THOMAS HAXEY presented 23 August 1386,

ROBERT BRAYTON resigned.

WILLIAM SELBY, presented 8 November 1388.

ROBERT DOWEN presented 1 October 1390.

THOMAS OVERTON, presented 3 March 1392.

WILLIAM FRANKYS presented 18 February 1401.

WILLIAM BARTON presented 11 March 1414; exchanging with

WILLIAM HUNDEN, 14 May 1415 for Totnes Archdeaconry. He died in 1417.

THOMAS SEMAN, instituted 17 April 1417, on the presentation of Sir John Bohun.

WILLIAM WALESBY resigned in 1439; and was succeeded by

THOMAS BALSCOT, instituted 22 July 1449, on the presentation of Humphrey Bohun.

THOMAS ESTINGTON, died in 1470; and was succeeded by

ROBERT BURGOYNE, instituted 18 April 1470, on the presentation of John Bohun and Anne his wife. He died; and was succeeded by

EDWARD UNDERWOOD, S.T.P., presented 7 December 1495, by the heirs of John Bohun deceased. He died in 1504.

RICHARD SURLAND, or CURLAND, instituted 14 April 1505, on the presentation of Sir Robert Southwell, knight.

JOHN CULLAM, instituted 18 October 1509, on the presentation of Henry Owen; he died in less than a year; and was succeeded by

EDWARD JONES, instituted 8 May 1510, on the presentation of Sir David Owen, knight; who married one of the daughters and co-heirs of John Bohun (as Sir R. Southwell married the other); he died in 1537; and was succeeded by

THOMAS WATSON, instituted 27 November 1537, on the presentation of Sir Robert Dormer, knight; he died in 1545; and was succeeded by

WALTER DORMER, B.D., instituted 26 August 1545, on the presentation of Sir Robert Dormer, knight. He was also rector of Read in Hertfordshire; and was buried here, 1 April 1566; being succeeded by

JOHN HERKS, alias GARBRAND, instituted 8 July 1566, on the presentation of Sir William Dormer, knight; he was prebendary of Sarum; he was accounted a good poet, and was a noted preacher; but he was also a puritan, and was the editor of many of the works of Bishop Jewell. There is a brass, with effigy, to his memory, on the south wall of the chancel.

ROGER HACKET, M.A., instituted 7 April 1590 on the presentation of Garbrand Herks. Dr. Hacket died rector in 1621; and was buried in the church, September 16; being succeeded by

JOHN HARRIS, B.D., 1621 presented by Elizabeth Hacket; and to him succeeded, on his exchanging it for a living in Hampshire,

ROBERT NEWELL, D.D., 1621, presented 7 February 1630, on the presentation of Richard Jones. He died in 1643, archdeacon of Buckingham, and sub-dean of Lincoln.

WILLIAM CLARKE occurs rector in 1650; and although he was, in 1661, made vicar of Stepney, and in 1665 dean of Winchester, yet he kept this rectory to the time of his death. He was buried 22 September 1679, in St. Peter's Church, in St. Albans; and was succeeded by

THOMAS HILL, instituted, 2 February 1679, on the presentation of Thomas Hacket, He died; and was buried here, 7 June 1686; being succeeded by

THOMAS DEWBERRY, M.A., instituted 29 October 1686 on the presentation of Thomas Hacket. He died 14 August 1717; and was succeeded by

CHARLES COLE, instituted 16 August 1717. He died in April 1771.

THOMAS LOWNDES, LL.B., presented by Arnold Duncombe, of Stockhouse, Aldbury, in Hertfordshire, and inducted 28 May 1771. At his death

ROBERT LOWNDES, LL.B., was inducted 23 February 1798, on the presentation of Anna Maria Duncombe, of Canterbury, spinster. He was also vicar of Astwood.

THOMAS LOWNDES, M.A., instituted 1837. He resigned, and

WILLIAM CHARLES SELBY LOWNDES, presented in 1856; died 22 September 1899.

JAMES HERBERT HARVEY, of St. John's College, Cambs, instituted 1899.

St. Firmin's Church, North Crawley.

This handsome regular edifice is dedicated to St. Firmin, first bishop of Amiens in France, who suffered martyrdom in A.D. 287, and who was the patron of the ancient monastery of this place. It comprises a west tower, clerestoried nave, side aisles, chancel, and north porch—all embattled. The tower, which is plain and disfigured by a small spire of wood covered with lead, contains five modern bells, and a clock; with stairs of ascent, in a circular projecting turret at the S.W. angle. The whole external appearance of the nave is perpendicular, with good windows; the chancel is Early Decorated with good windows, and a fine doorway on its south side, having shafts and mouldings. The roofs of the nave and aisles are covered with lead; the chancel is slated. Above the porch doorway is a curious figure in lead with expanded wings, and a serpent at its feet. There are gargoyles at the angles of the tower and aisles.

The five bells in the tower are inscribed as follows:

First: GOD SAVE OVR KING 1638 I K.

Second: WM NASH WM BREWER CH WARDENS 1813 T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.

Third: CHANDLER MADE ME 1652.

Fourth: T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1824 WM NASH WM BREWER CHURCHWARDENS.

Fifth: NEWCOME OF LEICESTER MADE ME A^o 1613.

Browne Willis, in 1745, described this church, though then much decayed, as elegant, and next in size to the churches of Newport, Olney, and Hanslope; but the building has been much improved since Willis wrote. This celebrated antiquarian conjectured the chancel to have been built about the reign of Edward I., by Peter de Guildford, rector, who died in 1321. He records the following inscription, in capital letters, under the east window, indicating Peter as its founder; and the afore-mentioned rector, is the only one that bore the name of Peter.

*Petrus cancellum tibi dat Firmine novellum
Ut cum landeris Deo, Petri memoreris.*

In the interior, the nave aisles are divided by (on each side) an arcade of five arches. These arches, together with the octagonal and clustered piers that support them, are Early Decorated. The roof of both nave and aisle is perpendicular; the principals are supported by carved upright figures in wood, and the spaces between are panelled with finely moulded ribs, having rich bosses at their intersections. The beautiful roof of the nave is tastelessly daubed over with a profusion of whitewash; that of the chancel has been denuded of its whitewash. The clerestory is lighted by five three-light flat-arched windows on each side; which correspond to the three-light mullioned and storied windows of the aisles; three on each side. In 1827 many alterations were made in the church, and additional seats introduced for accommodation of 106 persons, as appears by a tablet of wood in the south aisle. The east end of the south aisle was then separated by an embattled screen and converted into a small robing room or vestry. Willis mentions carvings over the entrance into the chancel, and paintings on the roof, formerly over an "altar at the upper end of the south aisle." The pulpit is of oak, and hexagonal in form, and the reading-desk is of oak, the seats are partly formed into pews, and partly ancient open oak benches; and there is a gallery at the west end, in which is a small organ. The font is ancient and curious, the large octangular basin being supported by four short clustered columns, and a shaft in the centre. The wooden receptacle for the water, placed within the font is painted black, and decorated with an inscription, and a cross in the centre. The cover of the font, which is of oak, elaborately carved, is pyramidal and very lofty.

The ancient chancel or rood-loft screen is a great curiosity. This richly decorated piece of workmanship is of oak, in panels, with Gothic arches of open screen-work and divided into sixteen compartments. In the panels at the base are painted figures, it is probable, of the twelve apostles, with scrolls and inscriptions; and in four panels above them are representations of two kings and two bishops. These are well drawn and in good condition; and it is seldom that so great a variety of ancient costume can be found in one place. The whole of the tracery and ornaments are good. The chancel is lighted by five windows, on each side of the east window is a sculptured bracket of stone, and there is a small double piscina and an ambry in the south wall, and an ambry of larger size in the north wall.



On the south wall of the chancel is a monumental brass inscribed to John Garbrand, a former rector. This brass, as will be noticed by the accompanying sketch, exhibits a figure of this divine kneeling before an altar, with an hour glass and a human skull in the upper corners. The inscription reads :

Here lyeth John Garbrand Doctor
in dibinity perfon of North Crawly and
benefactor to y^e poor of the fame parifh
whych departed y^e 17 Novemb^r 3^o (etatis 47
(Ani. 1589.

Here too are tablets to the Rev. Charles Cole, 54 years rector of this church, who died in 1771, in his 83rd year ; and his wife Mary, who died in 1782, aged 86. On the north side is a marble tablet to the Rev. R. T. Lowndes, who died in 1837, having been 39 years rector of North Crawley. There are likewise memorials in the chancel of the Giffard, Stafford, and Hacket families. At the east end of the north aisle is a neat mural tablet inscribed to Colonel Bruce Boswell, of Crawley Grange, who died in Edinburgh in 1855, aged 50 years. In the south aisle are memorials of the Latimers, and in the floor is a large slab, from which the brass effigy has been torn, inscribed :

Orate pro aia Roberti Lutpmer Arniger
et Katherine uxoris eius at p aia Elizabeth
filia eorudem et Heres dicti Roberti, que
Quidem Robertus obiit hiij^o die Octobris
Anno dni Millefimo CCCC^o xliiij^o et
Katerina obiit in Nouembris pr^o precedent
Cuius anime Propicietur deus Amen ∞

The registers date from 1558, and are in an excellent state of preservation.

Crawley Grange.

The mansion is a handsome building of red brick with stone dressings, and in the Tudor style of architecture. It is somewhat in the form of the letter E, and has a projecting porch, and mullioned windows. The entrance hall is wainscoted with oak, and exhibits some good carving. Some of the windows contain beautifully stained glass, the best having come from the parish church, which was denuded of its ancient stained glass, the remainder having been brought from Rome by the late Thomas Alexander Boswell. One piece of glass bears this inscription : " Willi Baldys abbas ceti dycalis spero meli ora, Anno MDLXXXVI," with a mitre and crozier in the centre. Other roundels of this elegant material bear the dates of 1514 and 1523 ; and in one is a cardinal's hat. The glass from Rome was more modern and showed

the arms of the Boswells and allied families. On the oak chimney-piece of the hall, are the arms of Cardinal Wolsey, finely carved in wood, which were also brought from Rome.

At the confiscation of church property, under Henry VIII., the Grange estates passed to the Hacket family, by them they were subsequently sold to the Selby Lowndes, of Whaddon Chase. They again sold to Thomas Boswell, of Auchinleck, a younger brother of Johnson's biographer; he never lived there himself but was succeeded by his son, Thomas David, who died in 1854. It subsequently passed in the female line to the Cumberlege Wares, and on their selling it in 1894, it was purchased back by the Boswell family in the person of the present owner, John Irvine Boswell, by whom it was restored.

Lady Chatterton, who visited Mr. Boswell, at Crawley Grange, in 1848, gives some particulars of the mansion in one of her books; from which the following description has been extracted: "Crawley Grange is a very picturesque old place. It is interesting from having been at one time the residence of Cardinal Wolsey. The centre gable contains the entrance porch, surmounted by the Boswell arms, with an inscription in Latin—*The Lord bless thy going out and thy coming in.* The windows and chimneys are in perfect keeping, and gives it that cheerful, interesting appearance, for which the Elizabethan style of architecture is so justly admired. I made the sketch here given," continues her ladyship, "of the entrance hall and the old oak staircase, which are said to be in the same state as they were in the cardinal's time. His arms are carved on the table at the end of the hall, and tradition affirms that it served as his sideboard. On one of the oak window-shutters in this hall, are the royal arms, with the Tudor roses carved above, and the Plantagenet portcullis below; bearing testimony that this mansion was one of those which Queen Elizabeth visited in her progress through her kingdom."

The house takes its name of "Grange," according to Lady Chatterton from having been assigned peculiarly to the abbot of the monastery of St. Firmin, as his residence, or farm, during his term of office. "It came into the hands about two hundred years ago, of a family of the name of Hacket, which had it for a century and a half; some of the family are buried in the church. Of course," adds Lady Chatterton, "there are sundry legends and ghost stories attached to the old mansion. Who ever heard of an ancient mansion-house without an apparition?"

The pleasure grounds attached to the house are well laid out, and planted with a choice collection of evergreen and flowering shrubs. The entrance lodge to the grounds, is in keeping with the style of the mansion.

The Manor House, North Crawley.

The Manor House, situated at East End, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the church, is an ancient gabled edifice of stone, surrounded by a moat, which is always full of water. The outer walls of the buildings are of solid masonry, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness, and the site of the house, &c.,

which is within the fosse, is about one acre in extent. There is likewise another moated farm-house in the parish; and at Up End there appears to have once stood a mansion, as the moat which enclosed it, and the fish-ponds which belonged to it may be distinctly traced; but no remains of buildings are to be seen.

The Farms of North Crawley.

The chief farms in the parish are known as Horn Castle, Dollars, Grove, East End, Up End, Moated Farm, The Lodge, Ring Tail, Brook End, Hurst End, Little Crawley, Quakers, Murtlands, and Church Farm.

The Manor of Broughton, in Crawley Parish,

Had its name from the Broughton family, to whom it belonged from 1219 to about 1529, when it passed by marriage to the Hon. William Howard, whose son conveyed it to Henry Morton, who was in possession in 1620. About 1630, a Mr. Stanton sold it to William Knight, who in 1634 re-sold it to Bernard Gregory, of whose grand-daughter it was purchased by William Lowndes of Chesham, who bequeathed it to his son William Lowndes, lord of the first manor.

A XVIIIth Century Trade Token of North Crawley.

North Crawley, during the period of 1651-71, possessed a mint of its own, like several villages of the Hundreds. The money-maker, or rather xviiith Century token issuer, was Nicholas Steele, and his small farthing was a facsimile of those issued in the immediate neighbourhood. There is no entry of this family to be found in the parish registers, therefore no clue is obtainable of this influential issuer.

North Crawley Charities.

By his will proved in 1564, Walter Mabley left a yearly rent charge of 13/4 to the poor parishioners.

Roger Hacket, D.D. (rector), who died in 1621, Left a rent charge of 20/- per annum, for the repair of footways.

John Cooper, in 1635, bequeathed 2/- a year to the poor.

John and Hester Bryan's gifts, as regards this parish, consists of 20 yards of cloth, to be made up into four gowns for as many poor aged widows; £2/5/- for the poor parishioners; and two-thirds of the rent of a close containing 12 acres 1 rood 16 poles, for apprenticing poor boys of North Crawley.

The town lands consist of 6 acres 35 poles and some cottages. The rents or profits are expended upon parochial purposes.

A.D. 1520. Thomas Winsley wills to be buried in St. Firmin's Church here, and a mass to be said for him here, and in St. Margaret's and St. Catherine's Chapel at Fenny Stratford; and in this Church at our Lady's and Trinity Altars.

A.D. 1527. Walter Rogers wills a legacy to the altars of St. Trinity and our Lady here.

A.D. 1531. John Franks gave 6d in brede, and a bushel of malte and a cheese, to the poor of this parish, that shall follow the 100de yearlie on procession Tuesday, in the parish of Crawley.

A.D. 1547, 25 Sept. Robert Latimer wills 40/- to mend the highways in Ring-tail-lane, that leads from Crawley Parsonage.

CHICHELEY.

CHICHELEY parish is 2,071 acres in extent and is populated according to the census of 1891, by 180 inhabitants; in 1851 the population numbered 271, thus showing that this place is gradually being depopulated like the surrounding villages. The parish is bounded on the north, by Emberton; on the east, by Hardmead; on the south, by North Crawley and Newport Pagnell; and on the west by Sherington. The village consists chiefly of a farm house, an inn known as the "Chester Arms," a small school, and a few thatched cottages. The scattered farm houses are called lodges. They are, Hill Lodge, Thick Thorn Lodge, Mount Pleasant, and the Grange or Balney Lodge. The last is a good stone building with the following inscription: "Sorrié lvté, Pié, 1601, above the doorway. Thick Thorn Lodge is a modern building, and on the farm attached to it, is said to be the site of the Sacratorium of Tickford abbey. Here are distinct traces of a moat, of which nothing is known; but it is probably the site of the mansion which the Chesters purchased from Lady Mansel. Near it traces of fish ponds still exist. In a field called "Chapel Close," foundations of ancient buildings have been found; and another close belonging to this farm is known as "Prior Field." The latter is probably the site of the building which belonged to Tickford priory.

The village, situated on the Newport Pagnell and Bedford road, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east from the former, and 10 miles south-west from the latter place. It is in the county court district and rural deanery of Newport Pagnell; archdeaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford. The inhabitants are principally employed in agriculture.

Manorial History of Chicheley.

At the compilation of the Domesday Survey, here were three manors, all belonging to William Fitz Ausculf, and holden under him by three subfeudatories. Baldwin held one of them as three hides. There were three carucates of land; and in the demesne one; and five villeins with four bordars had two carucates, and one of pasture. Wood for one hundred hogs. It was then and always had been rated at 40/-. The same tenant held it in the time of King Edward, and could sell it.

Another manor was holden by the same William Fitz Ausculf, by Andrew, his subfeudatory, as three hides. Here were also three carucates of land; one in demesne; and seven villeins with four bordars had two carucates; two servants; two carucates of pasture; wood for one hundred hogs; which had been and were constantly valued at forty shillings. Edestan, a man of Alnod of Kent, had holden this manor before the Conquest, and could sell it.

The third manor was holden by William Fitz Ausculf, by Pagan, as three hides and three virgates. There were four carucates of land ; in the demesne one ; and five villeins with six bordars had three carucates, and a carucate of pasture ; altogether valued at sixty shillings ; when he first held it, at one hundred shillings ; in the time of king Edward £4. This manor had been holden by nine thanes, and they could sell their possessions without any license of their lords.

The whole of this estate appears to have descended from Fitz Ausculf, with the rest of his inheritance, to Faulk Paganell, the founder of Tickford priory, in the adjacent parish of Newport Pagnell, and was by him bestowed upon that religious house.

A fine was passed in 1197, between Thomas Fitz Warren, Peter and Robert Fitz Brette, Reginald Fitz Brette, Spelon Fitz Brette, of lands in Chicheley, to the uses of Reginald and Spelon. And in 1254 another fine was passed between Peter Fitz William and Oliver, prior of Newport Pagnell, of messuages and lands in Tickford, Sherington, Chicheley, and Newport, to the use of the prior and his church of Tickford.

Roger de Somery, the presumed descendant of Fitz Ausculf, died in 1272, possessed of Chicheley ; and it appears by an ancient Charter of 1311, that license of liberty of free-warren was then granted to the monks of Tickford in *Thickthorne*, Chicheley, and Hardmead ; and in the same year, Henry Spigurnell had also a grant of free-warren in the same, which was renewed in 1312 and 1315 ; but Roger de Somery, son of the former Roger, died possessed of this manor in 1291 ; as did John de Somery in 1342.

In 1460, as was found by inquisition, that Thomas Wake, died possessed of the manor of Crawley and Chicheley ; and upon the dissolution of the religious houses, Henry VIII., in 1526, granted to Cardinal Wolsey, *inter al.* for the endowment of his New College in Oxford, the manors of Tickford, Chicheley, and Thickthorne, and the advowson of Chicheley Church *habend.* for ever.

In 1546, the king granted to Anthony Cave, the manor, rectory, and advowson of the vicarage of Chicheley, with certain tithes in Wyllien, late part of the possessions of Henry VIII's College, in Oxford ; and at his death, 9 September 1558, leaving issue daughters only, this manor and estate came in marriage with Judith, one of those daughters, to William Chester, who or his ancestor, had purchased a capital mansion here, said to have belonged to Lady Mansel ; and who is presumed to have been another daughter of Cave.

Cole extracted from the will of Anthony Cave, proved in 1551, a schedule of his estates, as follows ; — " Chicheley and Thickthorne manors £35/3/-. Lands there, purchased of Sir Peter Dormer and John Chibnall, £8. Power's manor in Whitechurch, £17. The fourth part of the manor of Oving, £1/1/8. Lands in Lathbury, purchased of Ed. Andrewes, £5/5/4. Other lands in Lathbury, purchased of the Marquess of Northampton, £14 ; with others of Mr. Walley there. In Great Linford, £3. In Newport, £2/10/-. In *Callis' town*, in France, £6. Total £92 ; but due there from to the schoolmaster of Lathbury,

for 44 years, at 10/- per ann. £22."

The family of Chester, as connected with this county, is mentioned as having been descended from John Chester, citizen and draper of London, who was buried in Mercer's Chapel, in 1437; and whose son or grand-son, William Chester, obtained a grant of arms, 22 May 1467, by William Hawkeslow, clarencieux king-at-arms, which were; party per pale Arg. and S. a chev. engrailed between three rams' heads erased counter-charged, within a bordure engrailed Gu. Bezante. *Crest* on a wreath a ram's head erased coupe Arg. attired Or.; but the bordure discontinued by later branches of the family.

Richard Chester, was sheriff of London in 1484. Anthony Chester, of Chicheley, who possessed this estate in the reign of Elizabeth was high sheriff of the county in 1601; and being first knighted, was advanced by James I. to the dignity of a baronet, 23 March 1635; died in the same year, and was buried here in the December following, æt. 70; as was likewise Dame Elizabeth, his relict, in 1698. His descendants and successors in the title and estate, to the time of the seventh baronet, were also buried here.

Sir Charles Bagot Chester, the seventh baronet, bequeathed this estate to the second son of Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot, bart., of Blithfield, Staffordshire, with the proviso of his taking the name of Chester. The estate accordingly passed to Charles Chester, who, in 1765, married Catherine, eldest daughter of the Hon. Bilson Legge, second son of the Right Hon. William Earl of Dartmouth. He died at Chicheley, 2 April 1793; being succeeded in his possession by his eldest son Charles Chester, whose descendant, John Greville Chester, is the present patron.

Ecclesiastical History of Chicheley.

The advowson, which before the Reformation, belonged to Tickford priory, has subsequently passed with the manor. The value of the vicarage in 1535 was £8, and the certified clear value £54 as returned in Ecton; but it is now worth £85.

In 1600, Elizabeth, by patent, granted *inter al.* to Dr. Henry Atkins, of London, and Mary his wife, their heirs and assigns for ever, the manor or lordship of Tickford, and all messuages, &c., to the same belonging, at a reserved rent of £38/13/11 for the manor and rectory of Chicheley.

In 1623, James granted to Sir Anthony Chester, knt. and bart., his heirs and assigns for ever, the manors and lordships of Chicheley and Thickthorne, and rectory of Chicheley, the advowson and right of patronage thereof, and all tithes, &c.

Vicars of Chicheley.

ROGER resigned 1264; and was succeeded by

RALPH DE IVINGHO, presented 12 January 1264, by the priory of Tickford. He died; and

JOHN DE ESTWODE was instituted 4 July 1266.

ROBERT GEALE resigned in 1290; he was succeeded by

WALTER AURIFABER, instituted 8 July 1290. He died; and

WILLIAM RUSSEL was presented by the king, 13 September 1349. He resigned; and THOMAS MOTE was instituted 10 July 1382.

WILLIAM MAKE admitted 11 September 1390, exchanged for Newbottle, Northamptonshire, with

WILLIAM CHAPMAN, 3 May 1399. He exchanged for Proyton, with

NICHOLAS APPLEBY 27 February 1404; and died in 1418; being succeeded by

JOHN SALISBURY, presented 25 May 1418.

WILLIAM BULBECK was deprived in March 1434, for neglecting his cure.

ROBERT FRERE was presented 12 April 1435, by the convent of Tickford.

WILLIAM RIPPOM presented 25 September 1471.

THOMAS PERLABYN died in 1500; being succeeded by

HUGH WARDEN, presented 7 June 1500. He willed to be buried in the church "before the crucifix."

HENRY ASHTON, instituted 18 October 1519, on the concession of the convent of Tickford. At his death,

JOHN MASSEY was instituted 13 July 1538, on the presentation of Thomas Clawgen; and occurs vicar in 1546.

EDWARD ROBINSON, presented in 1551, was succeeded by

JOHN THACKLEY, a monk of Snelshall priory, instituted 23 January 1554, on the presentation of Anty Cave, and was buried here 3 May 1557; being succeeded by

JOHN BISHOP, presented 6 August 1557 by the same patron.

MARMADUKE POLLEN occurs vicar in 1570.

WALTER THOMAS, instituted 27 May 1573, on the presentation of Elizabeth Weston. On his resignation

THOMAS GARDINER was instituted 15 May 1581, on the king's presentation, in the minority of Anthony Chester. He occurs vicar in 1606 and 1617; as does

GEORGE PAGE in 1639; who died in 1640; and was succeeded by

JAMES SANDERS, M.A., presented 14 November 1640, by Sir Anthony Chester, bart. He was succeeded by

JOSIAH NOKE, instituted 7 June 1642, on the presentation of same patron; he died; and was buried here 26 March 1662; being succeeded by

GEORGE DOWNING, M.A., instituted 20 August 1662, on the presentation of Sir Anthony Chester, bart. In 1672-3 he was promoted to be archdeacon of Coventry; and on his cession of this living, was succeeded by

JOHN RANDOLPH, M.A., presented 27 June 1674. He died 9 December 1784; and was buried in the churchyard; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM BARBOUR, M.A., instituted 4 May 1685 on the presentation of Sir Anthony Chester, bart. He died here; and was buried in the churchyard, 12 March 1724; and was succeeded by

JOHN SHANN, M.A., presented 28 December 1725, by the bishop, on lapse. He had, besides a good temporal estate in Yorkshire his native county, another living; and married a daughter of Mr. Remington, rector of Stoke Goldington, whose wife was the daughter of Sir Anthony Chester, bart. He had issue, two sons and three daughters; one of them married to the Rev Edmund Smith, rector of Tyringham with Filgrave. He died vicar in 1783, in his 83rd year, after an incumbency of fifty-eight years; being also rector of Farndon, in Northamptonshire.

WILLIAM COTTON, M.A., was presented 31 January 1784, by Charles Chester; a brass to his memory and inscribed with his bequest to the poor is placed on the north wall of the aisle. He was succeeded by

S. T. TOWNSEND, presented in 1830, by the same patron.

CHARLES FRANCIS PARTRIDGE, M.A., instituted in 1850. He was a non-resident.

WILLIAM JEUDWINE, instituted in 1860. At his death, he was succeeded by

JOHN GREVILLE CHESTER, instituted 1882. He resigned and was succeeded by

SAMUEL BRIDDON BROOKER, M.A., who was instituted in 1885, and was succeeded by RICHARD HENRY OAKLEY BANKS, who was instituted in 1893.

CHARLES ARTHUR MONK SMITH was instituted in 1899, on the presentation of the Rev. John Greville Chester.

St. Laurence's Church, Chicheley.

The church is small and ancient, and consists of a nave, north aisle,

chancel, south porch, and a tower in the centre, in which hang a peal of six bells, inscribed :

First & Second : A R 1718.

Third : SR IOHN CHESTER BART BENEFACOR A R 1718.

Fourth : PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD A R 1718.

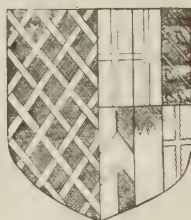
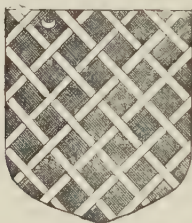
Fifth : ABR : RVDHALL OF GLOVCESTER CAST VS ALL 1718.

Sixth : IN MULTIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA IOHANIS A R 1718.

The tower also contains a clock. Much of the building is good Decorated work, with clustered shafts in the nave, and a very good three-light window at the west end. The tower is of the Perpendicular period, with double windows on each face of the upper stage, having good tracery and mullions. There is also a good three-light window in the lower stage. The chancel is modern. The porch has a parvise above, is roofed with tiles, and like the greater part of the church, is mantled with ivy; the tower, nave, and aisle, are embattled and covered with lead; the chancel is tiled. In the interior the nave and aisle are divided by an arcade of four pointed arches; the clerestory is lighted by six three-light and two two-light windows; the roof of the nave is stained and varnished; the mutilated holy-water stoupe remains in the wall on the east side of the porch door. The pulpit, reading desk, and lectern, are of oak, and elegantly finished; the deal benches are open, and grained to represent oak. The octagonal font is large and ancient. The tower, between the nave and chancel, is supported by piers and arches; the effect of the latter is marred by a modern floor, erected for the use of the bell-ringers. The two arches beneath which the chancel is approached are lofty and finely proportioned. It would appear to have been the intention of the founder or architect of this edifice to make it a cruciform church. The chancel, as previously mentioned, was built by the fourth baronet of the Chester family, who adorned it with a fine ceiling of stucco, and a beautiful pavement of black and white marble. Behind the communion-table is a screen of marble, with an entablature at the top, supported by Corinthian pilasters, inscribed "Gloria Deo in Excelsis." Elegant and costly as Sir John Chester's decorations of this portion of the sacred edifice may be, they harmonise badly with the Gothic work of the other parts of the church. But the fault was not so much Sir John's, as it was that of the age in which he lived. The munificent restorer of the chancel appropriated it as the burial place of his family. The two windows of the chancel are filled with stained glass; and around the walls are inscriptions to the memory of members of the Chester family upon encaustic tiles.

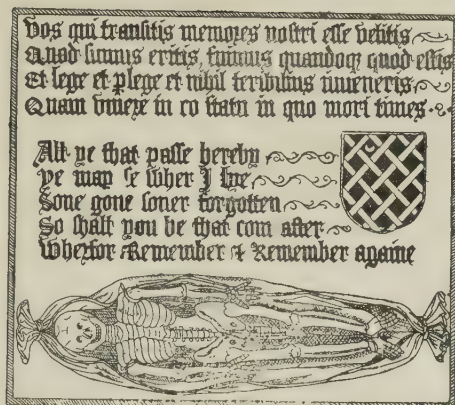
At the east end of the north aisle is a monument to the memory of Anthony Cave, which was erected by Elizabeth his widow, in 1576. It is a sarcophagus placed on a raised altar tomb, between pilasters, surmounted by caryatides, sustaining a pediment and cornice. On the sarcophagus is an emaciated figure of a dying person; between the pilaster and behind this figure are six females kneeling behind each other in regular gradation; opposite to them is a knight in armour,

kneeling on his helmet before a desk, and having a smaller figure also kneeling behind him. There is a shield of arms in the tympanum, and another affixed to the sarcophagus. At the foot of this monument is a large slab with the effigies of a man and woman and bearing the coat of arms of Anthony Cave and Cave and his wife's combined. It is inscribed as follows :



*Hic iacet Anthonius Cave Armiger quondam Mercator Stapule
Calicie dominus de Chicheley qui obiit nono die Septembris An^o
dni Millesimo CCCC^o Liiij^o Cuius animæ ppicietur deus amen*

In the aisle, and near the above, is a handsome monument consisting of an altar tomb or basement, upon which are two figures, in alabaster, of a knight in armour, and his lady, with her veil turned back, kneeling at an altar, under a pediment supported by Corinthian pillars. This was erected in 1637, by Sir Henry Chester, K.B., to the memory of his father, Sir Anthony Chester, knight, and second baronet. The monument is surmounted with the arms of Chester and Cave. On the walls of the chancel are marble monuments in memory of Sir Anthony Chester, the third baronet, and Mary Cranmer, his wife, with an inscription alluding to her descent from Archbishop Cranmer; and of



Sir John Chester, fourth baronet, and his wife, Anne Wollaston. There are many more memorials in the church of the different members of the Chester family.

A small curious brass, as here illustrated, is to be found on the east wall of the aisle, between the two monuments, before mentioned. This is to the memory of one of the members of the Cave family, as it bears their arms.

In the nave is a brass without an effigy but with the following curious epitaph :

DUTY WHILE A CHILD, LOVE & CARE WHEN A WIFE
 COVRTESY, & CHARITY, AND A HARMLES LIFE
 TRVE PIETY TO GOD, THIS SHINING SEAVEN
 THRO IESUS MERITTS TOOKE HER SOVLE TO HEAVEN
 Ian . II . 1658.

It is not known to whose memory this was engraved. Near to it is another old brass without effigy, inscribed to William Shelly, who died in 1633.

Chicheley Hall.

This is a handsome mansion of red brick with stone dressings, rebuilt by Sir John Chester, the fourth baronet, in 1708, and stands in a delightful situation. There are extensive pleasure grounds, a lake of considerable size, and numbers of fine forest trees in the park. At a short distance from the mansion is a tower, three stories high, which contains a curious mechanical contrivance for supplying the house with water, from a spring beneath. This machinery was erected in 1725, by the fifth baronet, and is still efficient.

The antiquities preserved here are several paintings of the Chester family, seals of Cardinal Wolsey and Archbishop Laud, a supposed manuscript of Charles I., the book of Esther in Hebrew manuscript, a collection of historical tracts. In a room, which is wainscoted with oak of a date antecedent to the rest of the mansion, is a beam over the fireplace inscribed : " Cave ne Deum offendas, cave ne proximum lædas, cave ne tua negligentia familiam deseras, 1550." The panelling and beam of this room are supposed to have formed part of the more ancient residence built by Anthony Cave. In a cupboard, on the landing of the laundry stairs, was a human skeleton.

Charities of Chicheley.

The poor have a yearly rent charge of £2/12/-, said to have been left by a Lady Mansel.

William Cotton, vicar, left £2/18/9 to be distributed among the old, poor, and infirm, on the 1st of July.

Thomas Townsend, vicar, bequeathed £14/14/-, half to be distributed on the 1st of January, the other half on the 1st of July.



SHERINGTON

S a parish of 1,805 acres and a population of 566 inhabitants, according to the census of 1891; the population of 1851 was 826. It is bounded on the north, by Emberton; on the south and east, by Chicheley; and on the west, by the river Ouse, Lathbury and Tyringham. The village, which is large, is situated about 2 miles north, from Newport Pagnell; and 3 miles south, from Olney; and on the main road between Newport Pagnell and Wellingborough. It is divided into two parts, Church End and Calves' End, the church and the greater part being seated upon an eminence; the remainder in a hollow. In the latter portion are several good houses, some of which are of modern date and in the Gothic style: and these impart an air of respectability to this part of the place. It is in the petty sessional division, county court district, and union of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery of Newport Pagnell; archdeaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford. Both Congregationalists and Wesleyans have chapels here. Sherington bridge, which crosses the Ouse about a mile from the village, is a handsome structure of three large and two small arches. The open fields in this parish were inclosed under an act passed in 1796.

Manorial History of Sherington.

At the time of Edward the Confessor there were three manors in Sherington, which were given by the Conqueror, after the battle of Hastings, to Geoffrey Bishop of Constance, and were holden by him at the compiling of the Domesday Book; when the bishop was taxed for his manor of Sherington, as ten hides. There were eleven carucates. In the demesne three hides; and there were four carucates. Twenty-two villeins with six bordars having six carucates, and a seventh might have been added. There were eight servants; and one mill, of 26/-rent; four carucates of pasture: wood for one hundred hogs; altogether worth £10; when he first held it, £7; in the time of Edward £10. Of this manor, Edwin, son of Borret, held six hides for one manor; Alwin, his man, one hide for a manor; and Osulf, a man of King Edward, three hides for a manor; all of whom might give or sell their land.

The lands of the Bishop of Constance were forfeited in the reign of William Rufus, for his adherance to Robert Duke of Normandy; and thus Sherington became vested in the crown.

At what time this manor was again granted out, or to whom, does not appear; but one William, hence surnamed, accounted for the scutage hereof in 1161, and this William de Sherington, when that

king levied an aid for the marriage of his daughter, in 1165, returned that he held it *in capite*, for two knight's-fees, and had not enfeoffed any under-tenant. He lived till 1189, and his name occurs in the Liber Rubeus, and in the Pipe Rolls, as paying the scutage for Sherrington up to that year.

To him succeeded in this manor, Richard de Carun, called also Richard de Sherrington; but whether he was the son, or the husband of the daughter, of the preceeding lord, has not been ascertained. He, however, held *in capite*, the two knight's-fees, and paid one hundred marks for livery for his lands in 1189; and also scutage for the same year. He probably died before 1195; for, in that year, one William de Sherrington paid scutage for Sherrington, as for two knight's-fees.

In 1202, Robert de Vipont gave twenty marks and a palfrey for the wardship of Sherrington's lands and heir; and this wardship he continued to hold to 1213; for, in that year, he paid, the scutage due from Sherrington. The name of the heir so in ward, was probably John, for John de Carun, called also John de Sherrington, paid scutage for this manor in the reign of Henry III.

This manor was in the possession of Roger Carun, in 1313; of Ralph Basset, in 1326; of Henry Grey, in 1396; in the family of Linford, from 1356, to 1408; and in the lands of John Tyingham in 1476; when it passed, by the marriage of Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Sir William Tyingham, about 1678, to John Backwell, son of Edward Backwell, alderman of London; who, about 1694, sold it to Roger Chapman, attorney-at-law, of Newport Pagnell; on whose death, in 1701, it descended to his eldest son and heir, Thomas Chapman; and was afterwards purchased by the family of Præd, of Tyingham.

A second manor in this parish also belonged to the family of Carun, from whom it afterwards passed to the Linfords; the last of whose family died in 1468. From the Linfords, this manor came to the family of Reynes, of Clifton Reynes; and so passing in marriage with Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Reynes, to Thomas Lowe, it descended to Francis Lowe, who settled at Sherrington, and had a son, named Thomas Lowe, father to Agnes Lowe, who brought this estate in marriage, to Mr. Adams, of Monmouth. This family conveyed it, about 1710, to Sir John Chester, of Chicheley, bart.; to whose eldest son and heir, it belonged in 1735.

A third manor, dissevered, as is presumed, from the first manor, was possessed by the Bassets, temp. Edward I., and held under the manor of Olney, of which Ralph Lord Basset died possessed, 1316. This manor came to John Lord Grey de Wilton by the marriage of Maud, daughter of Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton; in whose family it continued until 1505, when Edmund Lord Grey passed a fine of an estate at Sherrington, to Thomas Crayford, and others; but, as no manor is mentioned in the deed, it is presumed to have passed to Richard Mareot, who died in 1491, lord of this parish. This estate seems to have belonged to the family of Montgomery, in Queen Elizabeth's time and so to have descended to the Nortons; for, in 1634, in the reign of Charles I., it was in the possession of William Norton; who had



THE NAVE OF SHERINGTON CHURCH

Showing the Piscina in the North Aisle.

issue, by Anne his wife, a son, named Brett Norton, born in 1627; and a daughter, named Margaret, first married to Thomas Wiseman, of Essex; and secondly, to Thomas Duncombe, of Broughton; on failure of whose male-issue, it came, about 1690, in marriage, to the Pargiters: and about 1710, on the death of Thomas Pargiter, to the Smiths, of Passenham, near Stony Stratford.

Ecclesiastical History of Sherington.

Before the reign of John, this church was given by William de Sherrington to the abbey of Marmontier; who paid scutage in 1162. In 1202, the prior of Newport Pagnell returned, that he held one virgate of land, with the appurtenances in Sherington, in free alms, as belonging to his church, which he held of the gift of William de Sherrington, who had that virgate; and also another, which he gave to the church in perpetual eleemosynage, when he presented him to the church of Sherington; and in 1235, John de Carun paid four marks scutage, for fees to the king, for lands held *in capite*, of which Robert de Cockfield held one fee. Martin de Carun attempted to recover, by suit against Richard de la Mare, one messuage and ninety acres of land in Sherington, as his escheat, because William de St. Edmund died without heirs and thereupon, it was adjudged, before the king, in his court, that he had rightful process.

The king having in 1294, commanded the sheriff to take into his hands all the lands and tenements of Martin de Carun, the writ was issued accordingly; and in 1296, the king accepted the homage of Roger de Carun, of Sherington, for all the lands and tenements which Martin de Carun, his father, deceased, had holden of the king *in capite*. The dispute which had taken place respecting the patronage of the church, between the prior of Tickford and the Caruns, having been decided in favour of the former, the priory continued to present to the rectory, until the donation of the advowson to the See of Lincoln, in 1293; and in 1343, a fine was passed between Richard Fitz Simon le Smith and Richard Linford and Sibil his wife; and their son, John Linford, died possessed in 1357; as did a second John Linford, who had given one hundred shillings for license, that he might enfeof the manor of Sherington, with its appurtenances, to Sir Henry Grey of Wilton, knight, and others, in a certain form.

Rectors of Sherington.

THOMAS DE SCHYREFORD was presented 1230, by the prior and convent of Newport who had recovered the presentation before the justices of assize, against John de Carun. At his death

WILLIAM LA MAR was presented by the prior and convent of Tickford extra Newport Pagnell, in 1259.

JOHN DE LUCA was presented about 1270. He died rector in 1300; and was succeeded by

ADAM DE LUDFORD, S.T.P., collated by the bishop 16 April 1300. At his death

THOMAS DE LUDA was admitted 5 May 1303. He died 1319, prebendary of Lincoln and treasurer there, having long before resigned this living.

WILLIAM DE BEBY was collated 1 January 1309.

WALTER DE STAURENCE succeeded.

JOHN DE WYE was collated 6 February 1329. At his death

WALTER DE FARNDALE was collated in 1361. He exchanged for Thingford, in Northamptonshire, with

WILLIAM ATTE CROSSE, 20 August 1379; who also exchanged for Stanhope, in the diocese of Durham, with

WILLIAM RYEL, 10 June 1401. He exchanged for Langton, in Yorkshire, with

JOHN DISWORTH, 10 August 1405; who exchanged for Helmdon, Northampton, with

WILLIAM BARROW, LL.D., 21 January 1406. He was, in 1418, made bishop of Bangor; and, 1423, translated to the See of Carlisle. In his will, dated 1 September 1429, he gave some plate to his cathedral; £20 to a priest to sing for him in St. Catherine's chantry there; and bequeathed lands and tenements at Sherington, where he seems to have contributed towards the present church, to his kinsman Hugh. His successor in this living was

PETER HORTON, S.T.P., admitted 20 July 1424, on the king's presentation, during the vacancy of the See of Lincoln.

ROBERT MONTER was presented in 1425,

WILLIAM DERBY was collated 26 July 1433. He was succeeded by

ROBERT KIRKEHAM; who exchanged for Surfleet, in Lincolnshire, with

GILBERT ALTOFT, 13 February 1444. He afterwards exchanged for Holbeach, in Lincolnshire, with

WILLIAM GREYBARN, S.T.P., who was collated in 1474,

JOHN PROCTER was the next rector, but resigned; and

RICHARD HAWARDYN, also rector of Stoke Goldington, was collated 27 September 1510. He was presented at bishop Atwater's visitation, about 1515. At his death,

RICHARD MAWDLEY was collated 7 December 1518. He was archdeacon of Leicester; died in 1530; and is said to have been buried at Thame.

ROBERT KENCOT, or KENCOK, was collated 28 May 1529. He died; and

THOMAS ROBERTSON, M.A., called Capellanus Regis was collated by the bishop of Lincoln, but was afterwards deprived by queen Elizabeth.

WILLIAM ROLSTON was collated 11 February 1543, and occurs rector 1555.

FRANCIS BALINGTON succeeded in 1557: but resigned in 1562.

GILES SNELL was presented by Thomas Highgate and William Ardes 1562, no doubt, on a grant of the advowson, or a lease made by the bishop of Lincoln. How long he held the living is not known: but his successor.

HENRY BARLEY, or BARLOW, paid his first fruits in 1569, and was succeeded, at his death, by

JOHN MARTIN, B.A., who was collated 30 November 1581. He died; and

THOMAS GILDER was collated 29 January 1626; but died about 1647.

IGNATIUS FULLER, intruded in 1647, and possessed it in those times of anarchy; but conforming at the restoration of Charles, he took out the king's title, 10 March 1661. He was a native of this county. He resided here sixty-four years, and was reputed to be a Socinian. He died 21 October 1711, age 86, and was, with many of his family, buried in the church here.

JOHN BARTON, M.A., collated 10 December 1711. He resigned, in 1743, to his son, and returned to his other rectory of Great Brickhill, after having greatly improved the parsonage house.

PHILIP BARTON, M.A. was collated by bishop Reynolds 7 July 1739, and inducted 20 December 1743. His wife died in 1781; and he exchanged this living for Stoke Hammond. He was succeeded by

ALEXANDER CROMELHOLME, M.A., who was collated about November 1781. He was also rector of Adstock; and, at his death, was succeeded in this living by

JOHN PRETYMAN, M.A., who was collated in 1811, by the bishop of Lincoln.

JOHN CHARLES WILLIAMS, M.A., who was instituted 1842. He dying,

ALEXANDER KING, was instituted in 1848. He resigned, and

EDWARD ELTON, M.A., was presented in 1884. At his death, he was succeeded by

R. F. MALLAM, who was instituted on the presentation of the bishop, 1898.

The Church of St. Laud, Sherington.

This church, like that of North Crawley, is dedicated to a French bishop. It stands on an eminence, and is a handsome edifice as may be seen by the accompanying sketch, and is composed of a chancel, a lofty clerestoried nave, north and south aisles, a south porch, and a fine tower between the chancel and the nave. The general style of architecture is good Decorated. There are some fine three-light windows on the south side. The east window is Decorated, but the west window, and those on the south side of the chancel are good Perpendicular. The tower, which is of the latter style, has good double windows on each face of the upper stage, an exterior stair turret, and is embattled, and attains the height of 62 feet. It contains a clock and five excellent bells, inscribed :

First : THOS ROGERS & JNO STUBBS CHURCH WARDENS PACK &
CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1773.

Second : G A B 8 Θ L

Third : IOHN BABINGTON AND THOMAS MERSHALL CHVRCH
WARDENS 1672.

Fourth : 1591 and the alphabet of small black letters.

Fifth : The alphabet of capital black letters and date 1591.

One of the bells from Filgrave church is said to have been brought here.

The nave and aisles are covered with lead, the chancel with tiles. The porch is handsome, and has a vaulted and groined roof with a large boss in the centre, and a parvise above it. Its side walls exhibit an arcade of semicircular arches. The holy water stoupe and stone sediles remain. The handle of the porch door is stamped with the arms of the See of Bangor, William Barrow, a former rector, who contributed towards the building of this church, having become bishop of that See as before stated. The arches of the nave are semicircular and very good; those on the north side being supported by round piers, and those on the south by octagonal; in both cases the capitals are moulded and good. The tower is supported on four arches. The clerestory is lighted by eight three-light windows. The west window is a noble one of five lights. The roofs are of ancient oak, and in their original condition. That on the north aisle is supported on corbals of wood carved to represent angels bearing shields. The pulpit is of oak with the centre panel inlaid; the font is octagonal and enriched with figures in niches, closely resembling that in Clifton Reynes church, though not so fine. In the nave is a handsome pendant brass chandelier for twelve lights, inscribed, "The gift of Geo. Rose, Sherrington, 1783." The chancel arch is supported by demi-round clustered columns. The east window of the chancel is of three lights. In the south wall are the three seats or stalls for the priests; graduating in height towards the east. They are separated by pilasters, and their richly sculptured canopies are under an arch. The piscina is blocked up. The leper's window or squint is good and contains stained glass

inscribed at the foot "Sanctus Laudus;" it is at the west end of the south side of the chancel and penetrates the south-west buttress of the tower. There is a piscina in the west wall of the north aisle; and another in the south wall of the south aisle, thus showing that these aisles were distinct chantries and contained their altars. The east window of the south aisle is filled with stained glass to the memory of Alexander King, a former rector; two in the south wall are to the memory of Alfred Umney, and George Nelson and Georgiana Susannah his wife (only child of Alfred Umney).

There are memorials of the family Smith, the Rev. Alexander Cromleholme, the Rev. John Charles Williams, and the Rev. John Pretymann, who were former rectors.

Lipscombe gives the following description of memorials, now lost, probably through the oversight or want of care of the church officials at the restoration of the church:

"A stone near the communion table is inscribed to the Rev. Ignatius Fuller, who was rector of this church for 64 years, and died in 1711, aged 86. He was inducted into this living in 1647, and possessed it in those troublous times; but conforming at the restoration of Charles II., he took the king's title in 1661. He was a native of this county, and a reputed Socinian. His wife, and other members of his family, are also buried here.

"Near the desk, in the nave, on an ancient stone, is the portraiture of a man in brass: at his feet was a tablet, which had an inscription engraved on it, both of which are lost. On the same stone, below, were the effigies of a man and a woman, with four male children standing between them, in brass, which have met with the same fate. However, the following inscription remains:

"Of your charitee pray for the Soules of Robert Yonge & Idæ his wyf: the wherby Robert decessed the iij. Day of June in the year of our Lord God Mcccxcxij. On whose Soules I ha have mercy. Amen.

"On an ancient marble, near the upper south window, are portraitures of a man and a woman, in brass; near them was a crucifix, now torn off; above the woman, on a scroll:

Miserere nobis Domine.

"at her feet, this inscription, on brass:

Hic sepelitur corpus Ricardi Mareot, venerabilis Jurisperiti, quondam unius Dominorum hujus Villæ, ac Justiciarii Pacis hujus Comitatus. Qui quidem Ricardus filiam et heredem desponsavit Humphridi Catesby Armigeri filii et heredis Johis Catesby Militis, quondam de Whiteston in Comitatu Northampton; et obiit idem Ricardus Mareot xvij. die Julij Ano. Dni. Mcccclxxxj. Cujus aie propicietur Deus.

Credo [quod Redemptor meus] vivit, et in no[vissimo die de Terra re]surrecturus sum, et in carne mea videbo Deum Salvatorem meum, quem visurus sum egi ipse, et non alius; et oculi mei conspecturi sunt; et in carne mea [videbo] Salvatorem meum; reposita est hæc spes mea in sinu meo.

"The last paragraph is carried round the verge on a fillet of brass,

At the two corners, at the top, were the arms of Mareot, impaling Catesby.

"Against the wall of the north aisle, is a brick altar monument, covered at the top with a white marble, whereon are cut the portraitures of a man and a woman. At their feet: Quarterly, 1 and 4, a bend between six mullets. 2 and 3, a cup covered, impaling 1 and 4; a chevron between three saltires; 2 and 3, a lion rampant. Round the verge, this inscription:

..... qui quidem Johis obiit xvij^o. die Martij. A.D. Millesimo cccclxviiij.; et dicta Isabella obiit xxiiij^o. die Augusti, A.D. Millesimo.....

"This tomb was for John Linford, whose family lived in a house on the north side of the church, which belonged formerly to the Lowes, and afterwards to the family of Adams. It was sold about 1710, to Sir John Chester, bart., of Chicheley." Having become much out of repair it was found necessary to pull it down and to build the present Church Farm house.

On a tablet of wood, on the north wall is the following:

Extract from the last Will and Testament of Edward Fuller, late of Watford, in the county of Hertford, deceased, dated 4 August 1705. "I give and bequeath, and hereby direct my executors to lay out the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, or what other sum will be sufficient for that purpose, in purchase of a rent charge of inheritance of five pounds per annum, free from all charges and deductions, to be vested in such trustees as my executors shall direct, for the use of the parish of Sherington to be issuing out of lands in or near Sherington, as may be; which rent charge shall be paid and disposed of in manner following, viz.:—twenty shillings per annum to the minister of the said parish for the time being, and he to preach a Sermon for the same on the twenty-seventh day of March yearly for ever, and ten shillings yearly to be expended on the minister and churchwardens of the said parish on the day of preaching the said Sermon; six and twenty half crowns to be given to six and twenty poor and necessitous persons of the said parish, such as the minister and churchwardens in their discretion shall think fit, to be yearly on the day of preaching the said Sermon; and five shillings on the same day to the clerk of the said parish for the time being, yearly for ever.

RD. HUMPHREYS, } Church Wardens.
JOHN FIELD, }
1813.

In the registers, which date from 1698, is the following entry in reference to the repairing of the parish roads.

Memorand. Dec. 29th 1719.

It is agreed & acknowledged y^t the Parsonage Lane does belong to the Rect^r of Sherington seperately to mend, by y^t the Parson has mended it for his own convenience & in lieu of eighteen days service to y^t Comon highways wth his Teem, & y^t y^e Causeway by y^e Parsonage Close belongs to y^e Rect^r to mend, but y^t he has nothg to do wth y^e repair of y^e Bridge or Causeway by John Babington's Close altho he freely gave Gravel & Stones for y^e mendg thereof.

wittness our hands,

Dan^{ll} Broughton.
Rob^t Adams.
Tho. Loams.
Jn^o Knight.
John Chibnall.
Edward Hooton.

In the churchyard, near the west side of the porch is a remarkable grave stone to the memory of John Campion. This has, in bold relief, a dying person in bed, at the foot of the bed is the fell destroyer Death in the act of striking the heart of the prostrate figure with a long barbed dart held in his right hand, whilst with his left he is placing an extinguisher upon a lighted candle, that is placed in an ornamental candle-holder in the foreground. At the rear of the skeleton, the emblem of death, is old "Father Time," in the attitude of making a hasty retreat from the death chamber. In his hurry to decamp he has upset an hour glass that is seen falling at the foot of the bed. Between these two arrivals is to be seen, upon a bracket, a clock. Hovering over the bed are two guardian angels casting down a ray of glory upon the departing spirit. A bureau, at the head of the bed completes the decoration of this, probably unique, head stone.

The churchyard is entered by a lych-gate at the main entrance,

Sherington Rectory

Stands about a quarter of a mile distant on the south side from the church. It is a large building and is surrounded by neat pleasure grounds and gardens. An old terrier, dated 1639, gives the following :

The parsonage house, containing five bays of buildings. The barn, containing seven bays. The Granary, Dovecote, and Stable in the middle of the yard, containing three bays. The garden and yard, and site, two acres. The Pightles, two acres and a half. Seven roods of glebe meadow in the town mead. Commons for five cows and a half, and for thirty sheep. In Windmill Field, five acres three roods and one-third and one ley arable. In the little field, four acres two roods arable. In Goldworth Furlong, four acres one rood arable.

In the month of June, 1645, a portion of the Parliamentary army, under Fairfax, is said to have encamped in the field known as "Ban-craft," which adjoins the rectory.

Sherington Manor House,

The residence of Mr. Wellesley Taylor, is a large ancient building, much modernised, and situated at the south east of the village, on the Newport road.

A XVIIth Century Token of Sherington.

There was, between the years 1651 and 1671, two varieties of a token issued for small change in this village by a man named Edward Britnell, who spelt the name *Shirrinton* on one, and *Sherington* on the other. As there is only the following entry in the parish register :

1699. Joseph Whitmee, a baker & Mary Britwell were married June 29.

it is impossible to give any account of this progressive tradesman of Sherington. The small coin is, in detail, like those of Emberton and Olney, excepting the legend.*

* For a more graphic account of these tokens, see chapters on Lavendon, Olney and Newport Pagnell.

LATHBURY.

THE parish of Lathbury is surrounded on all sides except the west by the river Ouse; the adjoining parishes are, on the north, Tyringham; the south, Newport Pagnell; the east, Sherington and Chicheley; and on the west, Gayhurst. The area is 1,056 acres. The population in 1891 was 146. The village is small and neat, and lies about one mile north of Newport Pagnell.

Manorial History of Lathbury.

The manor, which now comprehends the greater part of the parish, and extends over more than a thousand acres of land, was, at the compilation of the Domesday Book, in divers parts, and in the lands of Odo, Bishop of Baieux; Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance; and Hugh de Beauchamp.

The first estate mentioned in the Norman survey belonged to the Bishop of Baieux, and was situated in Bonestou Hundred. It is described as holden under that great military ecclesiastic by another bishop, the Bishop of Liseaux, as only one hide of land, wanting five feet. There was land for one carucate; which was cultivated by three villeins, with carucate of pasture; which was, and had been constantly valued at 10/-; in Edward's time, at 20/-; and this land had been in former days, holden by Siric, a man of Earl Lewin, who could sell it.

The lands of the Bishop of Constance, holden under him by *William* (presumed to have been William of Beauchamp), were five hides for his manor. There were four carucates; in the demesne two; and six villeins, with six bordars, having two carucates. There were three servants, with four carucates of pasture; and wood for one hundred hogs. It was worth £4; when he first held it, 40/-; and in the time of Edward, 60/-. This manor, Edduin, the son of Borgret, a thane of Edward, held.

Another estate in *Lateberie* belonging to Hugh de Belchamp, and was holden of him by William de Orenge, as four hides, for a manor. There were three carucates; in the demesne two; and four villeins, with four bordars, having one carucate. There were three servants, three carucates of pasture, and wood for one hundred hogs. It was valued at £3; when he first held it, at 20/-; and in the time of Edward, 60/-. This manor was holden by two thanes, Leuric and Olviet, for two manors, and they could sell them.

Hugh de Beauchamp, or de Bello Campo, had followed William the Conqueror into England, who gave him the manor of Bengoe, in Hertfordshire, three other manors in Bucks, and the greater part of forty-three

lordships in Bedfordshire. He had issue, three sons, Simon, Paine or Pagan, and Milo. Simon died without issue and was succeeded by his brother; and in the reign of Henry I., the possessions of the family of Bidun are said to have included Lathbury.

John de Bidun, who was the founder of Lavenden abbey, was a descendant from an ancestor of the same name, who had possessions here from Maud de Cromwell, daughter of Anfred Fitz Rnald, and wife of Richard White; she is said to have been a ward of the king, and married to John de Bidun, being also sister of the Chamberlain of Hameslape, or Hanslop. Her land in Lathbury was reputed to be worth fifty shilling, exclusive of the stock of one hundred sheep, four sows, and one boar. She was, when the above estimate was made, fifty years of age; and had two sons, of whom the eldest was twenty-two years of age, and to whom the king restored his inheritance. She had also nine daughters; but neither the identity nor relationship of this lady very satisfactorily appears; for, in another statement, she is called daughter of John de Bidun, and said to have had dower in Lathbury of two hides, worth 40/- and to have had three daughters. However, these Biduns appear to have come into possession of the lands of the Beauchamps, and to have possessed all, or the greater part of the lands which subsequently belonged to Lavendon abbey, in this parish.

It appears that, in 1271, by divers fines between the abbats of Lavendon and others, that the advowson of Lathbury church with the manor, had been obtained by these ecclesiastics; and in 1278, on partition of Beauchamp's lands, on failure of issue-male, part came to Roger Nowbray, and Baldwin Wake, who had married the heiress of that family.

Under the ancient feoffment, other lands here are described to have belonged to Richard de Gatesden, who held the fourth part of one knight's-fee (as Almaric de Nower did one whole fee of William de Say) of the fee of *Chawrches* or, *Chokes*; and the lady Isabella de Albini half a fee of the barony of the Lord William de Beauchamp of Bedford.

Roger de Albini, who held the temporal manor of the Biduns in the reign of Henry III., and continued in possession until the time of Edward I., died in 1287; and another Roger de Albini, his descendant, passed a fine in 1354, of this manor, to Hugh de Sadelyng, to whom, and Isabella his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, it was confirmed by another fine in the next year.

It appears, that in 1408, a fine was levied between John Giffard of Whaddon; John Fever, and others, querents, and Sir William Thirning, knight, deforciant, of the manors of Lathbury and Stanton Barry, to the use of John Fever; and Lathbury was afterwards during part of the reign of Henry VI., in the hands of Sir William Vaux; who being subsequently attainted, Edward IV., in the beginning of his reign, granted to Ralph Hastings, in 1462, the manor of Lathbury, and lands in Stanton Barry, Stewkley, Chelmscote, and Cublington. In 1483, Richard III. granted Ralph Hastings, one of the esquires of his body, to hold to him and his heirs, in fealty, the moiety of the manors of

Cublington, Stewkley, Chelmscote, Linchlade, Lathbury, and Stanton Barry, late belonging to Sir William Vaux, attainted, with the leets and all other privileges. There seems, however, some perplexity in these several grants : perhaps a moiety of the manor granted by each of the respective grants to Hastings ; for it is also said that Florence, daughter of Sir Ralph Hastings, was wife of Edmund Lord Grey, who thus acquired a moiety of Lathbury ; and dying in 1512, and the lady Florence in 1536, William Lord Grey, their son and successor, was under the necessity of selling this estate, with Wilton castle, and other property, to procure his ransom, when a prisoner in the hands of the French, after the Siege of Guinnes, in the reign of Mary.

According to some accounts, this estate was purchased by Anthony Cave, of Chicheley, who died in 1558, and who had acquired other lands here of the family of Ardres. Edward Ardres had been a grantee of part of the lands of Lavendon abbey, which Henry VIII. had obtained at the Dissolution, and others which that king had alienated to William Parr, marquis of Northampton, and the family of Whalley. Anthony Cave left three daughters ; Judith, wife of William Chester ; Martha, married to John Newdigate ; and Anne, married to Griffith Hampden, of Great Hampden, by whom, or their representatives, this estate was sold about 1599, to the family of Andrewes.

Sir William Andrewes, descended from a Hertfordshire family, had the honour of knighthood, 12 May 1604, being designated of Lathbury, by Elizabeth or Isabel, his wife, daughter and co-heir of William Wilcocks, of Rumney, in Kent, he had a son of his own name, who was sheriff of Bucks in 1607, and married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, of Stowe. He was also knighted, 6 May 1618, (which must have been some years before his father's death) ; and, continuing in possession of this estate, Sir William Andrewes died in 1657, and was buried at Lathbury ; Dame Anne surviving him until the year 1661. The estate descended to the eldest son and heir, Henry Andrewes, who was born in the year 1632, and advanced to the degree of baronet, as Sir Henry Andrewes of Lathbury, 27 May 1661. He died in 1696, and was buried at Lathbury, and his issue male failing, the estate passed to Henry Andrewes of Lathbury (son of Edward, younger brother of Sir Henry Andrewes, bart.,) who was sheriff of Bucks in 1704, and died in 1744 ; leaving, by Jane his wife, besides one son, who died in infancy, five daughters ; Elizabeth, baptised at Lathbury, 26 September 1709, married to Richard Uthwatt, of Rickmansworth ; Anne, baptised 10 September 1703, married to Henry Harris, of Winchester ; Jane, baptised 19 December 1705, married to the Rev. W. Symes, of Somersetshire, by whom he had a daughter, Jane, who died married 30 April 1799, and was buried at Lathbury ; Margaret, baptised at Lathbury 23 October 1708, married to Captain Dalway, of Carrickfergus, who died in 1749 ; and Sophia, baptised 8 October 1710, and buried at Lathbury 2 May 1716.

Henry Uthwatt, son of Richard Uthwatt, by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Andrewes, having survived the issue of the Symes's, and the several co-heiresses, married Frances, only daughter of Sir John

Chester, bart., surviving brother and heir to Sir Charles Chester, bart., but had no issue; and having acquired a considerable increase of fortune by the death of his uncle, Thomas Uthwatt, who left one sole daughter, the wife of Matthew Knapp, of Little Linford, on coming into possession of the latter estate, left his residence at Lathbury to reside at Linford, and immediately cut off the entail by which that estate had been settled upon St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London; and on his decease, without heirs of his body, Lathbury reverted to his mother, who had long before embraced the tenets of the church of Rome, and had gone with her daughter, Mrs. Sherwood, the wife of a Roman Catholic surgeon, in Devonshire street, London, to reside there; but at length died at Lathbury, about 1755, and was buried here.

Henry Uthwatt having bequeathed his estates at Linford, after the death of his wife, to his cousin and godson, Henry Uthwatt Andrewes, son of William Andrewes, barrister-at-law, who married a daughter of Farmer Shillingford, of Buckingham, that property passed accordingly: and Lathbury came into the possession of Jane, daughter and heir of William and Jane Symes (the third co-heiress of the late Henry Andrewes, of Lathbury, and sister of Margaret Dalway), who resided at Lathbury during many years, and died there, unmarried, 30 April 1799, having made a singular will, by which this ancient inheritance of the family of the Andrewes who had enjoyed it about three hundred years, became altogether alienated.

Mansel Dawkin Mansel, who succeeded in the possession of one moiety of the manor, on the death of Jane Symes, in 1799, married, in August 1799, Elizabeth daughter of William Brown, solicitor, Bedford-row, London. He was in the Commission of the Peace for Bucks; an officer in the Bucks Volunteer Cavalry; and Commissioner of the Emigrant office in 1806. In 1800, he was High Sheriff of Bucks; and he rebuilt the mansion house, formerly belonging to the Andrewes, on the northern bank of the Ouse, opposite to Newport Pagnell where he resided until 11 August 1823, when in his 60th year, he committed suicide, in a fit of temporary derangement: and, after a coroner's inquest, was buried in Lathbury church, 13 August; his widow, dying on the 25th of the same month, was also buried at Lathbury, having had issue, 1. James Temple Mansel, 2. Charles Grenville Mansel, and 3. George Barclay Mansel who married the daughter of John Bell, editor of *Bell's Messenger*?

Ecclesiastical History of Lathbury.

In the reign of Henry 1. the family of Bidun, afterwards founders of Lavendon abbey, are said to have possessed the advowson of Lathbury; for, it appears that, 1232, John de Bidun (twenty years before his death) had given it to his sister, Ermeiarde; who, being married to Arnulf de Gatesden, presented Richard de Gatesden to the rectory, and is presumed to have been a relation of her deceased husband: whose heir, Walter de Gatesden, levied a fine of the advowson in 1268 to the use of Robert. Other fines being also passed in the same reign, the ecclesiastical estate became vested in Lavendon priory, to which

the abbat obtained its appropriation in 1271; but according to another account, not until 1310. It continued to be holden by that religious house until the general dissolution, in 1539, when it became merged in the crown; but was, by patent, granted to the king's New College of Christ Church, Oxford, in 1546, on a rent charge of £12 per annum. King Edward VI. granted, in 1549, to John Howe and John Broxholme, *inter al.* a piece of chantry, or lamp-land, in Lathbury, called Lord's Dole, in the west part of the meadow of Lathbury; and which the king also demised, 6 April 1553, to Anthony Cave for ninety-four years, in consideration of a Grammar School to be erected and continued in Lathbury, with divers covenants:

1. If the rent were behind two months, 10/- to be forfeited, in *nomine pænæ*, and the lessors to distrain; if the rent be behind twelve weeks, the lessors to re-enter, and expel the lessee.
2. The lessee to give the curacy fourteen years, if he live so long.
3. The lessee to pay the curate annually, a quarter of wheat, a quarter of rye, two quarters of barley, and two loads of straw.
4. The lessee to repair the chapel, barns, houses, and chancel, and so leave them.
5. Whereas, the lessee having erected a free grammar school in Lathbury, to continue ninety-four years; the lessors, at the request of the lessee, covenant to visit the said school every third year after the 1st of September, to see the orders thereof and to have an entertainment and 40/- every visitation.

But when Queen Mary came into power, she granted, by patent, to Christ Church College, Oxford, *inter al.* those reserved rents in Lathbury.

There are belonging to the living, about fourteen acres of glebe land in pasturage. The value of the vicarage, as in Ecton, was £5/6/8; the present approximate value is £294; net value £194.

The parsonage was demised, 5 June 1652, to Henry Andrewes, for twenty-one years; and, about four years after, Mr. Andrewes surrendered the lease, by reason of Mr. Hampden's inclosure. Thereupon, the dean and chapter collated Mr. Davis, the curate, in a new manner; and let Mr. Andrewes the vicarage for twenty-one years, paying Mr. Davis £46 per annum, except the parsonage and three acres of glebe land, and commons in Mr. Hampden's field inclosed.

The articles between the dean and chapter and Mr. Andrewes, by which the latter was to enjoy the parsonage for three years, paying £32 per annum, dated 4 August 1656, specify; that Mr. Hampden offered to the dean and chapter, to set out lands, part of the inclosure; to make the parsonage as secure as it has ever been; and to convey them to Christ Church, desiring to have a lease of the parsonage; but while this was under consideration, Mr. Andrewes purchased Mr. Hampden's estate at Lathbury, and then bade defiance to the dean and chapter, and refused to set out lands for completion of the inclosures. Whereupon the dean and chapter demised to John Digby three acres of arable, being glebe land reserved in their own hands, to break the inclosure, and all the commons in Mr. Hampden's field, for twenty-one years; the lessee being bound within six months, to throw up the inclosure, and commence such suits as may be advised, for breaking the

said enclosure ; the lessors bearing half the charge. The lessee was to make no agreement to continue the enclosures without leave ; and neither to let or set without consent of the lessors.

The release from Mr. Davis, the curate, of three acres of land aforesaid, to the dean and chapter, is dated 11 April 1656. The dean and chapter, 24 October 1662, demised, in consideration of Isaiah Davis, by himself, or some other sufficient minister serving the curacy of Lathbury, the parsonage of Lathbury, the chapel, and tithe barn, and all tithes, &c., belonging to the said parsonage, except all houses, tithes, oblations, and profits, belonging to the minister, *habend.*, for twenty-one years ; the lease having to repair the chapel, tithe-barn, and chancel.

Rectors of Lathbury.

RICHARD DE GATESDEN, presented 1232, by Ermeiardam de Bydun.

ROBERT DE HARLÉE resigned in 1291.

JOHN DE LASEY, presented 5 July 1291, by the abbat and convent of Lavendon, on the resignation of Robert de Harlee. He occurs in 1294.

Vicars of Lathbury.

JOHN DE LATHBURY, "Canonicus de Lavendon," presented by the abbat and convent of Lavendon, 17 August 1312.

JOHN DE WEDLINGBURGH, canon of Lavendon, presented 5 March 1312. He was elected prior of Lavendon ; and was succeeded by

RADULPHUS DE NEWPORT, canon of Lavendon, presented 19 February 1321. He died ; and

THOMAS DE STACHEDEN was admitted 12 February 1329, he resigned in 1334.

RADOLPHUS DE LATHBURY succeeded 17 August 1334.

WILHELMUS died in 1349.

NICHOLAS DE BRAUMFIELD was instituted 5 July 1349.

NICHOLAS DE RUSHLEY, presented 14 October 1354. He died ; and

JOHN DE WYLLYM was presented 10 September 1371. He resigned ; and

HENRY LYNDEFORD was presented 2 May 1385. On his resignation,

JOHN DE CATESBYE was presented 16 March 1404.

THOMAS WILLINGHAM resigned in 1451.

JOHN WESTON succeeded 19 September 1451. After 1451, no more institutions to this place, as a vicarage, are found in the registers of Lincoln, this church being, probably, supplied by a monk of Lavendon, as a stipendiary curate, till the dissolution, in 1539. However, in the bishop's visitations, and old books and wills, these following occur :

EDMUND FISHER, who styles himself vicar in 1522 and 1533 ; as does

WILLIAM GREEN, he was styled "Vicarius amotivus," in 1534 and 1536. He appears to have been succeeded by

RICHARD PAIN, 20 August 1541. He was buried here, 14 September 1551, by his own appointment, near the church door. In 1546, the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, were granted to Christ Church, Oxford, who have been patrons ever since.

JOHN STRETTON styles himself curate in 1554.

THOMAS CARN calls himself vicar in 1558 : as does

HENRY SMITH, M.A., in 1564, who was returned to archbishop Parker, as "Vicarius de Lathbury."

THOMAS YARROW, M.A., was presented by the queen Elizabeth, "ad Vicariam de Lathbury, racon lapsus," 26 August 1585. He quitted it for Newport vicarage.

THOMAS WELLER succeeded in 1595 ; and died in 1607. His successor was

WALTER EVANS, who was presented 15 July 1607, by Christ Church, Oxford. This Walter Evans was not presented to the bishop for institution, but had a grant from the dean and chapter, as a curacy, as appears by the Leiger Book,

No. 3, folio 106 where the grant is entered at length.

RICHARD ATKINS succeed in 1647. He was buried here 3 August 1654.

GEORGE PURCHASE supplied the cure in 1650.

WILLIAM JOLE succeeded 1654; and resigned in 1556, when he intruded into Broughton rectory.

ISAIAH DAVIES, presented 20 October 1656. He was buried here, 6 April 1691; and was called vicar in the register; as was

JOSEPH GASCOVNE, M.A., who succeeded in 1691. He was buried here, 15 June 1698.

ROBERT CREED, M.A., succeeded in 1698. He was buried here 25 February 1715; and was also curate of Linford.

HENRY TURNER, M.A., succeeded in 1698, being appointed curate. He was nephew of Francis Turner, bishop of Ely; and was buried in the church at Lathbury.

GEORGE PERIAM, M.A., was his successor. He died in April 1780.

JAMES CHELSUM, LL.D., He was succeeded by

JAMES MEAKINS, M.A., instituted 22 May 1801, On his cession of this benefice, was succeeded by

HENRY BULL, M.A., licensed as a perpetual curate July 1838, by the deans and canons of Christ Church, Oxford. At his death,

THOMAS EDWARD LAWRENCE, M.A., was presented in 1889.

All Saints Church, Lathbury.

The parish church is an ancient structure, consisting of a west tower, clerestoried nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and chancel. The tower, nave, and aisles, are embattled, the roofs are covered with lead, the east end of the chancel is finished with a plain parapet, and the porch is plain and gable-roofed, and retains the stone sediles. The tower contains a clock, and four bells, inscribed :

First : EDWARD HALL MADE ME 1731.

Second : NEWCOME MADE ME A° 1614.

Third : GOD SAVE OVR KING 1627 I K F C R P C W

Fourth : GOD SAVE OVR KING 1629.

The earliest work in the building is Norman, of which style the south doorway and some piers and arches on that side are plain examples. The tower is Early English, with a later battlement added; the rest is Decorated, with some very good windows. At the angles of the aisles are large gurgoyles, and there is a cross on the apex of the nave. The south aisle is divided from the nave by two pointed arches supported by a massive circular pillar; the north side being ornamented with a band of zig-zag moulding. The pillar on the south side is decorated with curious carving, probably from designs brought home by a crusader, depicting grotesque dragons having two heads, one at each extremity, and foliage. In one of the square piers in the south aisle is a slab, carved in bold relief, with some creature resembling a serpent and two curiously formed animals. The two pointed arches of the north aisle rise to a greater height than the arches on the opposite side. There is a piscina at the east end of the south aisle, shewing the spot to be the site of an altar in ancient times. In the south aisle are the steps which formerly led to the rood loft. The oak roofs are not concealed by ceilings; that of the nave is supported by sculptured corbals of stone. The six clerestory windows are pointed, and of two lights each. The

pulpit is of oak, and octagonal in shape. At the west end is a circular arch, now filled up; and the walls throughout the church retain much of the old paintings in distemper. The chancel arch is pointed, and the east window is of four lights, with quatrefoils in the head, and filled with stained glass, representing Our Lord seated, and in the act of blessing; angels, the sacred monogram, the symbols of the Evangelists, flowers, foliage, &c. The sedilia, or three seats in the south wall for the priests, has trefoil heading, and a plain band running along the top. In the same wall is the piscina, a very good one, with a pillar supporting the arch. The chancel is paved with black and white marble, laid at the cost of Sir H. Andrewes, bart, at the request of his daughter Margaret, who died in the 14th year of her age; and to whom there is a long poetic epitaph in this marble floor. On many of the white marble squares are memorials of the Andrewes family interred there. Near the communion-table is an inscription to Elizabeth, Lady Leigh, Baroness of Stonly, who died in 1678, and "in her father's grave lyeth."

On the north side of the chancel is a curious mural marble tablet with the representation of a lady in Elizabethan costume kneeling at an altar, behind her is a youth, also kneeling, and two babies in a cradle; above the heads of the children are the arms and crest of the family of Chandflower. It is inscribed as follows: **Here lyeth Mrs. Alice Chandflower late wife of Robert Chandflower, gent, eldest daughter of Edmond Pigott, of Lovghton, Esqvier, she had issue by her said hvsband 11 sonnes att one bearth, who died infantes & Edmond one other sonn, now living, she dep'ted this life being of y^e age of 24 yeres y^e xth of Aprill 1604.**



Near the above, is a brass plate, with these arms: A lion passant between three fleur-de-lis, impaling a lion ramp. crowned. And under them, this inscription: Richard Davies, of Kynant, in the Covnty of Montgomery, Gent, heer under byried. He deceased at the howse of his son, Isaiahs Davies, then Minister of this Parish, 20 day of Novembr 1661, aged 77 yeres. His Son, Thomas Davies, Esq., at that time being Agent-General for the English Nation upon the coast of Africa, caused a Cœnotaph to be erected in the Chvrch of Welsh Poole, the place of his Birth, to the pious Memory of his Father, and this small memoriall fof sych Cambria-Brittaines, as shall this way travaile.

In the nave, near the pulpit, is affixed a brass plate, with these arms: Vaire, Erm. and Gu. a canton. Crest: Out of a wreath, a lion issuant Vaire, crowned. And below this inscription: Here lyeth the Body of Mrs. Mary Davies, late wife of Isaiahs Davies, Vicar of this Parish, who departed this Life on 11th day of Ivne Ano. Dni. 1686, in the 56th year of her age.

In the north aisle is a handsome mural monument of marble, containing a long inscription to Henry Uthwatt, Esq., of Great Linford, who died in 1757, in the 30th year of his age, and was buried here, in

the vault of his ancestors. In the same vault is buried Frances, his wife, daughter of Sir J. Chester, Bart., who died in 1800, in her 73rd year. There are likewise in the church memorials of the families of Dobinson, Forster, etc. The church register dates from 1690.

Lathbury House.

This mansion, which was rebuilt at the beginning of this century, is situated a little south west of the church, fronting the north part of the town of Newport Pagnell, between which and the house, the river Ouse flows in a fine stream, and affords a very pleasing object from the windows. It has good gardens, shrubberies, and offices, with a handsome lawn attached to it.

Near the great road, through Newport to Northampton, is a plain building, called Lathbury Inn with a farm of about 363 acres attached, principally pasture, and divided into twenty seven inclosures ; together with eleven cottages and their gardens. Another farm, called Quarry Hill, includes, besides the homestead, 334 acres of arable and pasture, in seventeen inclosures ; which several houses, lands, and tenements, altogether constitute the principal estate of Lathbury.

The Lathbury Grammar School.

The following account of the foundation of this school, is copied out of a Leiger book, in the archives of Christ Church, Oxford.

In this Parish, a Grammar School was founded by Anthony Cave, of Chicheley, to whom the Dean and Chapter of Christ Ch. in consideration of his maintaining the said Grammar School, demised this Parsonage, by Indenture bearing Date 11 April, 1554, to hold the said Parsonage, and all Tythes thereto belonging (except the House Tythes, oblations, &c., belonging to the Service of the Minister or Curate of Lathbury for the time being, and the giving and appointment of the same Service), from the Feast of St^e Peter ad Vincula then next coming for the term of four-score and fourteen years, at the yearly rent of £12. And whereas the said Anthony Cave having established a Free School, to be Kept in the Chapel, situate in the Churchyard of Lathbury, for the term of 94 years, the Dean & Chapter further covenant, on the 1st of Sept. next after Anthony Cave's Death, and on the 1st of Sept. every third year afterwards during the said term of 94 years, to appoint the Dean, or else two of the Ancients of the Chapter to visit the Schole & Scholemaster, according to such Orders and Statutes as by the said Anthony Cave shall be made ; for which Visitations, the Visitors are to have 40/- paid to them at Lathbury every 3^d year, and also entertainment for 6 Persons for two nights & one Day. After the Death of Anthony Cave, the Dean and Chapter, when the Scholemaster's place becomes vacant, and to nominate an apt. & convenient Scholar of Christ Church with the advice and consent of Anthony Cave's Heirs, to succeed to the place ; which Scholemaster shall receive yearly for his Salary £12. Anthony Cave further covenants, to allow to two Scholars, to study Divinity in the University of Oxford to be chosen out of Lathbury Schole, the yearly sum of £6 a piece, for the term of 94 years, one of which Scholars is to be educated at Christ Ch. Anth. Cave further covenants, that the £6 a piece to the two Scholars, shall, after his Death, be raised and paid out of the ground & wood called Pryor's wood, in the Parish of Stoke Golding, by him then lately purchased of Robt. Throckmorton, Esq., of Weston Underwood.

Lathbury Charity.

Sir. H. Andrewes, bart, gave by his will a yearly rent charge of 40/- to be expended in setting the poor to level the highways, digging drains, repairing the banks, and other parochial purposes.

NEWPORT PAGNELL.



A BIT OF OLD NEWPORT.

26, St. JOHN St.

IS situated almost in the centre of the Hundreds to which it belongs, the town being one of the most considerable in size, and in the extent of its population, in the county. It is ecclesiastically the head of a rural deanery; the site of a very ancient castle, a market town of great note; and stands on the course of the river Ouse and its tributary the Lovat; the former is spanned by an old stone bridge, with a low parapet, on the great north-western road, leading to Sherington, Olney, and the county of Northampton; the latter is spanned by one, of modern and highly ornamental design, being constructed of cast-iron. This forms the southern entrance into the town from London.

The parish is bounded on the north, by the river Ouse, Lathbury, and Chicheley; on the south, by Willen and Moulsoe; on the east, by North Crawley; and on the west, by the river Ouse, Gayhurst, Little Linford, and Great Linford. Its area is 3,432 acres; and its population in 1891, was 3,788.

Newport is situated $\frac{5}{2}$ miles south from Olney, 6 miles north-east from Stony Stratford, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north from Fenny Stratford. The town is formed at the juncture of three chief roads from the north, south, and west. The High Street is of considerable length and contains the bank, the two principal inns, the firebrigade station, the public room, and many good places of business.

Being a post and posting town on the principal north-west road, Newport was at one time a celebrated thoroughfare. Bobbin and pillow lace was formerly carried on here to a great extent. Races existed here as early as 1720, and after been discontinued for forty years, were revived in 1828, but after a few years again fell into disuse. They were held in Bury Field.

The old topographers have given various accounts respecting the precise situation of Newport. Baxter was inclined to place the *Lactodorum* of the Romans here, "*Nova Porta Paganelli hodiernum est*

Lactodurum." In Salmon's Survey of England, in 1728, he supposes the name, *Nova Porta*, to countenance the notion of a military way, very commonly known throughout this part of the country by the appellation of *The Port Way*; but which the Bishop of Cloyne is deposed to ridicule as a dream of Salmon; and fixes *Lactodorum* at Towcester, in Northamptonshire, instead of Newport, as better accordant with the distances laid down in the Itinerary of Antonius.

It is clear that the Roman Akeman Street passed through Newport from Stony Stratford and Stantonbury to Bedford; and the name of port field has been conjectured to belong to contiguous land, which had some relation to this ancient way, called Port-Way. It is also a traditional report, that Newport was one of the towns which suffered, in 1010, from the predatory incursions of the Danes, when Buckingham, and many other places, especially towards the verge of the county of Oxford, were burnt and destroyed by the ravages of those assailments in their predatory advances towards Bedford.

A slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Newport in 1795. It was generally observed by all the inhabitants; but the Neptune Public-house was agitated in a peculiar manner, the bells there being made to jingle, and a great alarm excited, but happily without injury to persons or property.

In September 1797, the floods in the neighbourhood of Newport Pagnell exceeded any before known there; and besides the destruction of several persons by drowning, occasioned the loss of many animals and much farm produce. All the houses near the river were inundated; many families were confined to the upper chambers; all intercourse between different parts of the town confined to the use of boats; and during fourteen hours, no person could pass into or out of the town by any other conveyance.

Manorial History of Newport Pagnell.

At the Domesday Survey, the manor is described in the Hundred of Sigelai, holden by William Fitz Ausculf, and returned in his own hands; being rated at five hides, nine carucates of pasture; in the demesne, four carucates of land, and four ploughs kept, and five villeins, having five carucates; the Burgesses having carucates and a half, and five hides, besides other labouring tenants. There were nine servants, and two mills of forty shilling rent; pasture sufficient for all the plough-teams, and ten shillings rent; woods for three hundred hogs; and two shillings rent; and formerly four shillings from the farmers of the manor among the woods; and from all the rest of the occupants annually rents of one hundred and sixteen shillings and fourpence; altogether, rated at £20, and valued in King Edward's time at £24. This manor had been holden by Ulf, a thane of King Edward.

It is merely an idle conjecture, with respect to the Burgesses having been those inhabitants of walled towns only who sent representatives to Parliament; it being evident that, in the present, as in many other instances, no writs of summons had ever been issued at these early periods; although it is not to be denied, that *Burg* was used as a term

to signify a place of more than ordinary importance.

William Fitz Ausculf likewise held another manor in *Ticheford*, a portion of Newport, but entered in the survey in the old Hundred of Mouslei (not in Sigelai, like the preceding estate), and also in his own hands, taxed as five hides. In this manor there were eight carucates of land; in demesne, two carucates, and two ploughs were employed; and five hides of pasture; there were six villeins with four servants, having six carucates of land, and five of pasture; woods for fifty hogs. There were five socmen, paying 27/-, valued at 100/-; when he first held it, at £6; and the like in King Edward's time. This manor has been holden by Ulf, a thane of King Edward; and there were five thanes, who held three virgates and a half, and could sell them to whom they would.

William Fitz Ausculf also held in Caldecote, three hides and one virgate. There were two carucates of land; in the demesne, one; and another might have been cultivated. There was one villein and one mill of eight shillings rent; and a certain knight there held half a hide with half a carucate, and a carucate of pasture; woods for one hundred hogs; valued, and so had constantly been, at forty shillings. This was denominated a manor, and had been holden by two men of Ulf, who might sell it.

In Caldecote also were two hides and a half, said to have been the land of Lewin de Newenham, and certainly holden either under him, or immediately of the crown, by Suerting; who had in his demesne one hide and a half. There were two bordars, and one carucate of pasture, valued at twenty shillings. This land, Gowi, a man of Aluric Fitz Goding, had holden, and could sell it.

The land of the Earl of Morton recorded in the Domesday Survey, in Sigelai Hundred, is thus recorded:—In Caldecote, Alured held four hides and one virgate of the earl for a manor. There were four carucates of land; in the demesne, one and a half; and half of another might have been added. There were two vavassores, paying 32s. and 6d. rent, and one villein and five bordars, with two carucates; one servant and one mill, paying five oræ and 4d; two carucates of pasture; woods for twenty-four hogs, and twenty-eight pence, by custom; altogether worth, and had always been taxed at £3. This manor, four thanes of King Edward had holden, and could sell it to whom they would.

The Castle of Newport Pagnell.

The castle, undoubtedly of great antiquity, was not erected until after the Conquest; and although its site is well known, history has preserved no authentic account of its foundation, which may be conjectured of the time of Henry I. According to Leland, its remains were inhabited by the immediate successor of the Paganells, John de Somery, before the reign of King John; the name of Castle-mead, and the evident site of this ancient fortress, on that part of the hill on which the present church stands, affording the only clue to assist the curiosity of the inquirer respecting Newport Castle, of which the last

visible remains were wholly demolished in the civil wars of Charles I.

On the 18th of December, 1643, an ordinance was made, stated that :

“ The Lords and Commons, taking into their serious consideration the great importance of the town of Newport Pagnell, in the county of Buckingham. to the safety of the county adjacent, and of all the associated counties under the command of the earl of Essex, do ordain and order, that the said town shall be strongly fortified and furnished with all necessary provisions for a garison; and that the counties of Bedford, Hertford, Northampton, Cambridge with the Isle of Ely, Suffolk Norfolk with the county and city of Norwich, Huntingdon, and Essex, and the Three Hundreds of Newport, shall joyne in the charge of the said garison and fortifications, for the raising of £1,000, viz.,—in the county of Bedford, £187/10/-, Hertford, £125; Northampton, £125; Huntingdon, £45; Cambridge with Ely, £80; Suffolk, £125; Essex £125; Norfolk with the city and county of Norwich, £125; and in the Three Hundreds of Newport, £62/10-; that if the said fortifications shall arise to more than £1,000 the same shall be raised in counties and Hundreds above said, according to the proportion aforesaid; and in the said counties and Hundreds, the monthly sum of £4,000; Bedfordshire, £750; Herts, £500; Northampton, £500; the Three Hundreds of Newport, £250; Huntingdon, £180; Suffolk, £500; Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, £320; Norfolk and city and county of Norwich, £500; Essex, £500; and that the first month shall be accounted from 1 Dec. 1643, last past; that the county of Bedford, within fourteen days after passing this ordinance, shall send into it the said garison 225 able and armed men for souldiers; Hertford, 150; Northampton, 150; the Three Hundreds of Newport, 75; Huntingdon, 45; Cambridge with Ely, 105; Suffolk, 150; Essex, 150; Norfolk with Norwich, 150, like able men; all men so sent in being 1,200, to be put into one regiment, under the command of such Governor and Officers as his excellency shall appoint, and shall be from time to time recruited for the keeping of the said regiment full according to the proportion specified. That the committees for the weekly assessments already established by Parliament, or any two or more of the said committees respectively, shall have power to leavie and raise the money for the fortifications and maintenance of the said garison for provision of arms, ammunition, and other incident charges, with the best equality, they, or any two or more of them respectively, can, upon each several parish, township or place, &c. according to the rule of weekly assessments for the Parliament Army, and shall send forth their warrants to the High Constables, or such other persons as they shall think fit, &c., with power to enforce obedience to their commands, and to enable them to presse such able men as they see good for the said service, according to an ordinance of both Houses of Parliament, &c. That a treasurer shall be chosen by the committee of the several counties, who shall give his personal and constant attendance in the said garison, and for his pains have an allowance of 5 - per diem, and with appointment of Muster Masters, with like allowance. That the Field Officers and Captains shall make up their recruits of arms out of the pay of the officers and soldiers of the companies of the garison; and the Governor of Newport to *compel all the inhabitants of that town, able of body, within the line, to list themselves under command*, and do duty in time of seige, alarum, and assault onely; and the said governor, and any three of the committee of the said garison, shall have power to charge the richer sort of inhabitants with so many arms, for arming the poorer sort, as they shall be of ability to provide; *and if any disobey, he and the committees shall have power to put them and their families out of the garison*; also to have power to appoint a Maior of the town of Newport to receive and give orders, and to command the townsmen, in the time of seige, alarum, or assault, and with an allowance of 9/- per diem; the aforesaid sum of £4,000 a month being allotted for 300 horse, with their officers, during such time as they shall continue for the safe guard of the garison, and the preservation of the parts and counties adjacent, &c.”

William Fitz Ausculf received Newport from the Conqueror, as part of his barony of Dudley, together with the manors of Tickford, Crawley, Chicheley, Hardmead, Emberton, and others in this county, as well

as many other lordships in other counties, constituting the fee of Newport, of the honour of Dudley. The exact time of his death is unknown, but his lands were, soon after his decease, vested in Faulk Paganel, from whom this town obtained its distinguishing appellation of Newport Pagnell.

Historians have mostly agreed, that the lands of William Fitz Ausculf descended to Faulk Paganel by inheritance ; and some affirm, that he was a son of the former William ; but Willis was inclined to believe, that the lands came to the crown by the death of William Fitz Ausculf, without an heir, or were forfeited by rebellion, and passed to the family of Paganel by a new grant, in the reign of William Rufus ; for, in the Red book of the Exchequer, the lands of Richard de Somery, who inherited those of Gervase Paganel, are placed among the fees which had belonged to the king instead of the lands which had descended by inheritance from the time of the Conqueror's Survey.

Faulk Paganel founded the Priory of Tickford, and made it a cell to the great abbey of Marmontier, in Normandy. He bestowed upon it the manors of Newport and Tickford, with many others ; and all with the exception of Tyringham. His death was probably about the commencement of the reign of Stephen. For, in the fifth year of that king Ralf Paganel, his son and heir, took part with Maud the Empress ; and was by her made Governor of Nottingham castle, William Peverell, its lord, having been taken prisoner while fighting on behalf of the king. As no further mention occurs of him after the reign of Stephen, it may be concluded, that he died before the accession of Henry II.

Gervase Paganel, the eldest of his sons, succeeded him ; and in 1165, on the assessment of the aid for marrying the king's daughter, certified his knight's fees to be fifty of the old feoffment, and six fees and a third part of the new feoffment. He married Isabell, daughter of Robert de Bellomonte, Earl of Leicester, and widow of Simon St. Liz, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, by whom he had a son, Robert, who died in his life time ; and a daughter, Hauise, the wife of John de Somery. He died between 1189 and 1199, for, in the former of those years, he paid the scutage of Wales ; and in the latter year, the scutage then levied on the fee of Newport, was paid by Ralph de Somery. During the continuance of the family of Paganel, Newport seems to have remained amongst the demesne lands of the chief lord, and not to have been demised to any feudatory tenant.

Hauise Paganel had been married to John de Somery, but he died before her father, for in 1195, Ralph Somery, the issue of this marriage, paid a fine for the livery of the lands of his grand-father, till the king's return out of Germany ; and he also paid all the scutages charged on the fee of Newport during the remainder of that reign, and the first ten years of the reign of John. His mother survived her husband till 1209, when her son, Ralph Paganel, paid a fine to the king of £100 and two palfreys, for possessing of the manor and town of Newport Pagnell, which he had holden by demise from his mother, from the time of King Richard ; and in the same year, he did his homage to the king for all his lands. He lived to the reign of John, and then made a re-

turn of his knight's-fees; but died in 1211; for Margaret his wife, gave to the king a fine of 300 marks, to have an assignation of dower.

His eldest son, called William Percival de Somery, was the heir of his inheritance, but in his minority, and in wardship. Upon the collection of the scutage of Bitham, in 1220, he was acquitted of it, probably, on the grounds of personal service in the king's army. He died in the following year.

Nicholas de Somery, his only son, was his heir; but being a minor, his wardship was given to the Earl of Chester; he died in his minority, and unmarried, in 1228.

Roger de Somery, uncle of Nicholas, and brother of William Percival de Somery, succeeded to this inheritance on the death of his nephew, in 1229; and did his homage in the same year. This Roger de Somery was, in 1344 summoned to Court, to take upon himself the order of knight-hood, according to the custom of those times, which summons he did not obey; whereupon, a writ went to the sheriffs of the several counties in which his lands lay, to seize them into the king's hands, as a punishment for his contumacy in disobeying the commands of his sovereign.

The king thus becoming possessed of the manor and lordship of Newport Pagnell, bestowed it upon William Beauchamp, baron of Bedford, and Ida his wife, to form part of her dower if she survived him. Ida was a near relation of Henry III. (first cousin of the half blood), being the daughter of William Longspee, Earl of Salisbury, in right of his wife; which William, was a natural son of Henry II. by the fair and celebrated Rosamond Clifford.

William de Beauchamp obtained from the king many privileges at his manor of Newport. In 1254 he held this town by all the same ancient customs and tenures which Gervase Paganel and Hauise Paganel had formerly done; he was excused the payment of hidage, and from suit at the County and Hundred Courts, by special grants of exemption; and had Court Leet and Assize of bread and beer in Newport, as fully as the prior of Tickford had in that place. He died about 1260, and is believed to have holden Newport at his decease.

Roger de Somery survived the expiration of the grant of Newport to William de Beauchamp; and having in the mean time reconciled himself to his sovereign, he again obtained possession of his paternal inheritance. In 1270 he had a grant of a weekly market on Saturday, at his manor of Newport Pagnell, and of a yearly fair for eight days, to commence on the vigil of the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist. In the wars between Henry III. and his barons, towards the latter part of this reign, he was a steady adherent to the royal party; and received many instances of favour. He married, first, Nichola, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Hugh de Albini, Earl of Arundel, by whom he had four daughters, who became the co-parceners of their mother's inheritance. His second wife was Amabel, daughter and heir of Robert de Chancombe, of Chancombe, in Northamptonshire; by whom he had Roger, his eldest son and heir, who succeeded him; another son named John; and a daughter, Margaret married to Ralph Basset, of Drayton. He

died in 1272, possessed of this manor, to which there belonged thirteen knight's fees and a half; and was buried in the priory of Dudley.

Roger de Somery, his son and heir, was 18 years of age at the death of his father. This Roger de Somery was, in 1282, called upon, by writ of quo warrents, to defend his claim to very extensive privileges here and in many of the neighbouring manors. In 1280, he attended the king in Wales. He had married a lady, whose name was Agnes, who survived him, but of what lineage, is unknown; and died in 1291, possessed of this manor, leaving Roger, his eldest son and heir, then 13 years of age; another son, named John, also a minor; and two daughters, Margaret and Johanna; the former afterwards married to Sir John de Sutton, knight, and the latter to Thomas Bottetourt, son and heir of John Baron Bottetourt.

The wardship of Roger de Somery was given to John de St. John. He died unmarried; and the last time his name occurs in records is in 1307, when the manor of Prestwood, in Staffordshire, and the custody of the Walk of Astwood, in the Forest of Kynfare, were granted to Agnes de Somery, and Roger her son.

John de Somery was, soon after this time, if not earlier, possessed of his father's inheritance. In 1311 and 1317, he was employed in the wars against Scotland; and in 1322, was joined in commission with Ralph Lord Basset, of Drayton to seize the castle of Kenilworth, belonging to the Earl of Lancaster, then in rebellion. He died on St. Thomas's Day, the same year, without issue; leaving Lucia, his widow, who held this manor for her dowry. The time of her death is unknown.

John de Somery, who died in 1323, was the last male of his family; and having no issue, his inheritance was divided between his sisters; Margaret, wife of Sir John de Sutton, knight; and Johanna, wife of Thomas Bottetourt; Newport Pagnell being included in the purparty of Johanna de Bottetourt. She survived her husband, and died a widow in 1338, possessed of the manor of Newport Pagnell.

John de Bottetourt, of Weoble castle, in Worcestershire, his only son, succeeded to this manor on the death of his mother; did his homage for her lands the same year, and had livery of them, though he had not then made proof of his age. In 1343 he attended the king in his expeditions into France, and again in 1348. He was also employed in the wars of France in the 29th year of the same reign, and in those of Gascoigny in the 33rd and 40th.

John Bottetourt dying without issue, the manor descended to Hugh Burnell, who married his cousin and heir, Joyce Bottetourt. He died possessed thereof 27 November 1421, and of Little Linford manor and of the advowson of the two chartries in the church here; but, having no issue by his wife, in whose right he possessed this estate, Sir Adam Peshall, and Joyce his wife, the then surviving heirs of Bottetourt, claimed their inheritance, and passed a fine, 1427, of one third part of this manor, and of Little Linford, conveying their estates to William de Birmingham, and Joane his wife, and their heirs; which family, temp. Henry VI., soon after they had obtained possession, sold their estate and interest in the remainder of the manors of Newport

and Linford, to James Boteler, Earl of Ormonde; on whose attainder and exemption, 1 May 1460, on account of taking part against Edward IV. that king bestowed this manor in 1464, on Richard Nevil, commonly called the king maker, Earl of Warwick, who terminated his eventful career at the Battle of Barnet field, in 1472; and his lands having been previously forfeited, and reverting to the crown, became the property of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, to whom they had been granted for life in 1473, who had married Isabel, daughter of the said Richard Earl of Warwick, and who is usually believed to have been barbarously murdered 18 February (1478), in the Tower of London by order of his unnatural brothers, Edward IV. and Richard Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. Henry VII., having restored the possession of this manor to the Earl of Ormonde, who had married the heiress of the Botelers, on his decease without male issue, the estate was, by forced exchange with John St. Leger, who had married Anne Boteler, again obtained by the crown, and was granted by Edward VI., in 1551, in performance of his father's will, to his sister Elizabeth, afterwards queen, to whom he granted this manor of Newport Pagnell, with a water mill, and all those privileges, tolls, customs, &c., of the market and parish of Newport Pagnell, and the manor of Little Linford, parcel of the honour of Grafton, *habend.* for life.

In 1563, Elizabeth, by patent, reciting, that John St. Leger, by indenture, had demised to one Robert Annesley, a water mill, called *the Corn-Mill of Newport*, within the lordship of Newport Pagnell, withall lands thereto belonging, *habend.* for thirty-one years, at the rent of £7 the reversion of which premises belonging to the queen, *pleno jure*, her Majesty, in consideration of services, demised to William Cocks the said two water-mills, &c., *habend.* to him, from Lady-day 1571, or other determination of Annesley's lease, for twenty-one years, *redd.* £7; and Henry VIII. by patent, in consideration of the manor, lordship, and borough of Newport Pagnell, and the manor of Great and Little Linford and advowson of Great Linford Church, surrendered to the king by John St. Leger, granted him in exchange, Canonsleigh priory, *cum pert.* in Devonshire, and Ildesleigh manor, and some demesnes of St. Nicholas priory in Exeter

Queen Elizabeth, in 1573, granted to Robert Earl of Leicester, a messuage or tenement, and a yard of land, in Newport Pagnell, and all lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures to the same belonging; another messuage or tenement in Newport Pagnell, and a close of land or pasture to the same adjoining, and a half yard of land, and all lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures to the same belonging within the said parish, another messuage or tenement there, ac totum le Porthaw, and all lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures in the said parish thereto belonging; and all those two quarters of land, and all lands, tenements, &c., called *Edell Potters*, and one close of land or pasture called *Gerves*, alias Groves, within the said parish; a messuage or tenement, and a quarter of a yard land, and garden, and all lands, &c., to the same adjoining, in the same parish; and a yard land, and all lands, &c., and a close of land and pasture, called *Clay Close*; an-

other close of land and pasture, lying near Clay lane, in the said parish; all which premises in Newport Pagnell are, or late were, parcel of the manor of Newport Pagnell, and late parcel of the possessions purchased of John St. Leger, and to the honour of Ampthill annexed, *habend.* to Robert Earl of Leicester, his heirs and assigns, for ever, *tenend.* of the manor of Greenwich, in soccage.

The queen also demised to William Worthington, all those two water mills in the occupation of Robert Annesley, called the corn mills, parcel of the manor of Newport Pagnell, purchased of John St. Leger, and granted to William Cocks for twenty-one years, beginning at Lady-day 1571, *habend.* the reversion of the two mills, after the determination of Cocks's lease for twenty-one years at £7 per annum.

The queen granted to Sir John Fortescue, and Alice his wife, the rectory of Swanbourne, with the appurtenances, and all tithes, oblations, obventions, &c., and the capital messuages of Newport Pagnell, called the manor place, *habend.* the rectory of Swanbourne for sixty years from Lady-day 1588, at £9 per annum; and the messuage of Newport Pagnell for sixty years, from Lady-day 1589 at £4 per annum.

The queen, reciting, that the Lady Anne St. Leger, widow, and one of the daughters and co-heirs of Thomas late Earl of Ormonde, by indenture, dated 18 September 1532, demised all those three closes and tenements called the Bury Field, the South Bridge, and Honilees, and Wingsholme, the Coney-warren, with divers others, to Sir John Mordaunt, from Michælmas then next, for seventy years, at £32 per annum; and which premises were purchased by John St. Leger and annexed to the honour of Ampthill; the queen, on surrendering the indenture, regranted the said premises to Lewis Lord Maudaunt, and Elizabeth his wife, and Henry their son, *habend.* for their lives, at £32 per annum, and £10 for a heriot.

The queen also demised to Roger Parker, groom of her Chamber, divers lands in Newport Pagnell, leased to Pain and Harvey, 6 July 1574; and other premises in Eaton, leased to Robert Forster, for twenty-one years, late belonging to the monastery of Burnham, *habend.* for thirty-one years, after the expiration of other leases, at, for premises in Newport Pagnell, £1/18/10; and for those in Eaton, at £1/16/8.

The queen likewise granted to Captain Edmund Power, a messuage, and thirty acres of land, in the Marshe of Newport Pagnell, with divers other cottages, and parcels of land in Newport and Tickford, late parcel of the manor of Newport, which had been purchased by Henry VIII. and annexed to the honour of Ampthill, *habend.* for thirty-one years, from the end of a term enjoyed by one Thorpe, at the same yearly rent.

Queen Elizabeth, by letter patent, dated 17 May 1593, demised to Francis Fortescue, the Three Hundreds of Newport—Dunstowe, Mulshowe, and Seglowe, with their appurtenances, and the office of bailiff of the aforesaid Hundreds, and the americiaments belonging to the same, amounting to £12/4/3½ per annum, at Easter Term, and £12/18/11½ at St. Martin, from Lady-day then last, for twenty-one years, at £25/3/3 per annum; and King James, in 1614, demised the

same office and perquisites, &c., to Sir Francis Fortescue, knight; John Fortescue, son and heir of the said Sir Francis; and William Fortescue, one other of the sons of the same Sir Francis, for their three lives, at the same rent.

The queen granted to Thomas Audley, for thirty-one years from Lady-day 1613, two water mills, called the grist-mills, parcel of the manor of Newport Pagnell, late in the possession of Robert Annesley, and afterwards of William Worthington, at the annual rent of £7.

The queen granted to William Downhall, after the expiration of the Lord Mordaunt's lease, those lands in Newport Pagnell, lately possessed by Richard More, *habend.* for thirty-one years, at the annual rent of £32.

James I., granted to Henry Atkins, M.D., for £720 the pastures called Bury Close, South Edge, Oxmead, Honey Lane, and Bury Mead, lying in Newport Pagnell, late belonging to John St. Leger, and parcel of the honour of Ampthill, *habend.* for ever, at the annual rent of £32.

The king granted to John Grey and Ambrose Evans, all those parcels of woodland, called Ickhill, in Bucks, containing 160 acres, and value 20/- and those mills in Newport Pagnell, and other appurtenances, amounting to £31/18/11 *habend.* for ever, at the annual rent, for the mills of 1/-.

The king granted to Henry Atkins M.D., and Mary his wife, *inter alia*, the manor and lordship of Tickford, and the rectory of Newport Pagnell, and all that mansion of the manor or lordship, or late priory of Tickford, etc., *habend.* the premises to Henry Atkins, his heirs and assigns for ever, *tenend.* the premises in Tickford, as of the manor of Hampton Court, by the twentieth part of a knight's-fee.

Charles II., granted, for ninety-nine years, several small quit-rents, out of towns in Newport Pagnell Hundred, not named, amounting to £19/11/- *inter alia*, to divers persons.

On the death of Queen Elizabeth. King James I., made this manor part of the jointure or dowry of his queen by letters patent, dated February 19th, 1603; and having mortgaged the manor to Edward Cunny, and others, in 1625, his son and successor Charles I., by letters patent, dated August 6th 1627, in consideration of £343/10/10 paid him by Sir Francis Annesley (whom he afterwards created Viscount Valentia, of the kingdom of Ireland), assigned this manor to him and his heirs for ever. His son, Arthur Annesley, second Viscount Valentia being by letters patent dated April 20th 1661, created an English earl by the title of Earl of Anglesey, took also the title of Baron Annesley of Newport Pagnell; and his grandson, Arthur Annesley in 1732, was lord of the manor here, and had the tolls of the markets and fairs and other royalties thereto belonging.

Robert Annesley, a younger brother of the ancient family of the Annesleys of Annesley, in Nottinghamshire, settled in Newport Pagnell a little before the dissolution of monasteries, became trustee for monies employed in building Newport church; and having been bailiff or steward, in the management of abbey lands, obtained a considerable share of those possessions. By his will, dated July 29th 1553, he

styles himself bailiff of Newport, and willed to be buried in Newport church. He gave his daughter, Anne, wife to Munt and her children several legacies ; to his son and heir, George Annesley ; his lease of Little Linford, and copyhold in the March End of Newport, after his wife Anne's decease ; and his two mills and house called Herman's Bait, purchased in Newport town. Witness, William Harwood, vicar of Newport. This will was proved October 13th, 1557. His grandson, Matthew Annesley, of Tickford, in his will, dated 24 February 1616, gave several legacies to his sons, George, James, Andrew, and Matthew, and daughters, Frances, Elizabeth, Agnes, and Mary; and made his younger brother, George Annesley, his executor. His great-grandson, Matthew, son to the last mentioned Matthew, styled himself of Tickford, and by his will, dated 1637, made Anne, his wife, executrix and gave his freehold-land to his son Matthew, and portions of about £30 each to his daughters, Mary and Rebeca. The manor was purchased by, and conveyed to, Charles Marius Hardy, surgeon of Newport Pagnell, by deeds of lease and re-lease, dated May 7 and 8, 1810. Mr. Hardy died May 7, 1827, and was buried at Lathbury, having by his will, devised this manor and estate to his only son, Charles Henry Hardy, M.D., of the city of Bath.

The garrison of Newport during the civil war, makes a conspicuous feature in the several accounts of the military proceedings of that eventful period.

In a pamphlet entitled "Certain Informations," dated October 30, 1643, it is recorded :—

"Several Cavaliers came into Bedfordshire which County they have woefully plundered, they have seized upon the town of Newport Pannel, in the upper part of Buckinghamshire, which lieth between Bedford and Stony-Stretford, and have forced the inhabitants thereabouts to come in, and intrench it; and they are drawing the water about it, the better to strengthen and fortifie it, their drift being to intercept all Cattell and other provisions that shall come out of the adjacent counties to London, hoping thereby to cut off all victuals from that City and so starve it, if they be not timely prevented and unnested out of this place."

In another pamphlet :

"Wee heare from Newport Pagnel, in Buckinghamshire, that the Cavaliers make great fortifications to keepe awle her cood, cattels, and Welsh runts, and other provisions, from coming to London, and by keeping out the fat beasts, was make her have a verie leane citie if her should stop awle passages, yet some of her sheeses have a creat many leg (her will not say maggotts), that will in despite of the Cavaliers, carrie them up to London, with superscriptions upon them, to deliver them to her Cousin Sheese-monger."

Another scarce pamphlet, published during this period, says :

"Several engagements took place in the neighbourhood, all tending to confirm the measures of the Parliament, at Towcester, Stony-Stratford, Alderton, Olney, and finally, before Newport, where Sir Charles Lucas was repulsed by the Earl of Essex, who left it in December [1643,] the works being finished; and a solemn thanksgiving was held in Cornhill (Jan^y 19th) for the safe return of the Green and Orange Regiments. The date of Sir Samuel's appointment as Governor of Newport Pagnell, does not appear; but Dec. 11, the sum of £1,000 pr. month was voted for the support of the Garrison. Before this, Sir John Digby, Sir Lewis Dives, and Colonel Urrey, who

commanded the Northern parts of the County, having, pursuant to directions from Oxford, taken Olney, seized upon Newport Pagnell, where they proposed to establish a Garrison of 1,500 men. Sir Lewis issued orders for bringing in provisions and compelled the inhabitants to work at the fortifications, as he designed to establish a barrier between Bristol and Peterborough, and to cut of supplies from the metropolis. [Their] proceedings excited great apprehensions in the Parliament, who determined to recover a spot geometrically situated for the defence of the *associated Counties*; and committed this affair to the Earl of Essex, assisted by Skippon, Harvey, Wilson, and Luke. The troops halted at Dunstable, on Monday (Oct. 30,) and on the Saturday, proceeded by way of Brickhill, to Newport which they entered in the evening, not without resistance. The Governor does not appear to have neglected his trust; he fortified the Town; and encouraged his soldiers by reports of a disaffection among the trained bands, till, finding his means unequal to the object he quitted his post and retired to the court at Oxford. From the Merc. Brittan. November 30th, it appears, that "strict discipline" and "constant prayer" were enjoined by his Excellency.

"Our post bringeth intelligence from Newport Pagnel, that Sergeant Major Skippon is made master of the workes there and that the carpenters and pioneers are fortifying the Towne very strongly, that as the water doth compasse the towne as it were on two sides of it, so trenches from the said moate are digged, with draw bridges and sluices, to be completed, according to the Serjeant Major's directions, all which goeth forward very fast."

The House of Commons, on the 30th of November 1643, by a message presented by Sir Philip Stapleton, knight, and others, desire the concurrence of the lords to an ordinance for putting a regiment of Hertfordshire into Newport Pagnell, *pro tempore*, and it was ordered accordingly, that the Herts regiment, lying near Luton, should be sent forthwith to Newport, for the defence of that garrison, to be paid by the associated counties; and if greater force were found necessary, that forces out of Bedfordshire should be sent to the same garrison for its safety, at the command of the Lord General.

The Earl of Essex having signified, from St Albans, that the army could not march, on account of the number of men out in parties about Newport; that Lord Manchester had only about five hundred horse, that the king's forces near Towcester, had removed south-ward to join Lord Hopton; that Essex himself had not one whole company amongst the infantry, they had divided, half at St. Albans, and half at Newport; the lords directed the general to consider of the propriety of ordering the Earl of Manchester with his forces, towards Newport, to secure that place and parts adjacent; and gave directions, by a letter of the same date, to the Earl of Manchester, signifying the pleasure of their lordships.

The earl, in return, by letter from Cambridge, 22 December, informed the House, that he had 600 foot to Newport, and a regiment to Bedford with five troops of horse and two of dragoons; by which it was thought Newport was rendered secure.

On the 17th of February, an order was made for £200, to be sent to the garrison at Newport. An order was issued, 10 June 1644, for sending a brass culverin and a demy culverin to Newport Pagnell, from the Office of Ordinance, to be delivered to Sir Oliver Luke; and that Sir Samuel Luke, on receipt of them, should deliver two sakers and one brake, now at Newport for the use of Tamworth Castle.

The concurrence of the House of Lords, in a letter intended to be

sent to the several counties, to contribute to maintain the garrison at port, was requested by the commons, 15 July, 1644, to which the lords consented. This letter was grounded on the information from Sir Samuel Luke, the governor of the pressing wants of the garrison, of men and money, and the great danger of supplies being delayed; and it required an immediate contribution of the respective proportions of men, able and sufficient for the performance of the duties required.

“The Earl of Cleveland (whose station was at Stony Stratford), defeated the rebels within the sight of Newport, and repelled an attack upon his own quarters, which however, he did not maintain long.” July 1643.

A warrant issued in 1643, authorising the pillaging of the Royalists, gave rise to the following :

“By viture of a warrant from the Committees for Sequestration of Estates of Delinquents and Papists to me directed, these are to will and require you to present warning to all tenants, bailiffes, and officers of all delinquents and papists within your parish, particularly of the persons hereafter named, to bring in all their rents to the Committees at Newport, at the Sarazen’s Head, upon the 25 day of this instant April, by nine of the clocke in the morning, to be paid for the use of the king and kingdome; requiring you to warne two or three able men in your parish to appeare before the said Committees, at the place and time appointed, to do such further service as they shall be required unto. And yourself there, as you and they will answer it at your peril; dated the 17 day of April 1644.

Then followed the names of those sequestered by the authority : The Earl of Northampton, Castle Ashby; Sir Robert Throckmorton, Weston Underwood; Sir John and Ladie Digby, Gayhurst; Sir John Tyringham, of Tyringham; Sir Thomas Dayrell, Lillingstone Dayrell; The Ladie Farmer, Easton Neston; Spencer Lucy, Haversham; Thos. Longfield (Longueville), Wolverton; James Digby; Dr. Neuell; Dr. Giles, the king’s physician; Dr. Dillon, Shenley; Mr. Coates; Roger Hacket, North Crawley; John Crome (Crane), of Loughton; Mr. Stiles; and Edward Bolsworth, Leighton Buzzard.

From various notices in the Diurnals remittances to the garrison were irregular, in proportion to the demand, complaints were made in July, that the establishment was in great want of men and money, through the neglect of the associated counties. Supplies were granted and several vigorous movements undertaken in consequence, under Lydcot and Ennis. Ennis routed various parties in Oxfordshire; as at Islip, Bicester, and Kidington. Andrewes distinguished himself at Fringford, Oxfordshire, and Shirborne, in Warwickshire. Lydcot was defeated, and slain at Abthorp, by the young Earl of Northampton, and his three brothers, who fought with great courage.

The townsmen of Newport petitioned, that Cockayne of Hatley, might succeed Sir Samuel Luke, as governor of the former town, he being prepared to resign that office in pursuance of the *self denying* ordinance; but when the king appoached, they requested Luke to remain at his post, and his term was accordingly prolonged.

In Rushworth’s Collection, are the following letters; no mention, however, to whom addressed :

"Gentlemen, The enemy lies this night at Harboro, but all intelligence being they intend for this town ; how ill we are provided, you cannot but know ; our horse and men being commanded away, and we, nor six hundred foot, left in the town, I desire you, as you tender either your own or our good, to haste hither what men you can, for we have need of two thousand men to man these works ; they *are so large and at this time so indefensible*. This is all at present can be assured you, from yours to serve you,"

"SAM LUKE."

"Sir,—The messenger will assure you, that his Majesty is at Harborough, and his march is intended either for Northampton or *this place*, as the report goeth ; therefore I beseech you, let the foot belonging to this Garrison, be sent home with all speed, and if you can spare us any more, they will be most acceptable, for we shall want *above a thousand men to man our works in any reasonable manner*. We want all provisions, and if we escape a storm, we cannot hold out long, therefore desire you to consider him who is yours in all serviceable respects commandable,

"SAM LUKE."

This 5 June 1645, 4 o'clock in the morning, I beseech you, Sir, let the General be acquainted with our condition.

Fairfax arrived at Newport, on the 7th of June ; the battle of Naseby followed ; and Sir Samuel Luke scoured the country in search of the fugitives, whom he forwarded to London. His prolonged commission expired on the 30th of the same month ; and he was succeeded by D'Oyley, life guard to Fairfax, a native of Turville, in Bedfordshire ; and an act was passed for re-modelling the garrison.

In the next year it was in contemplation to have reinstated Sir Sam. Luke, in the government of Newport, for the purpose of defending or awing the associated counties : but this did not take place ; and it has been conjectured, that the moderation of Sir Samuel had subjected him to the jealousy of the army, whose ultimate views he is known to have disapproved.

22 May 1646, it was ordered by the House of Lords, that the garrison of Newport and the state thereof, be represented to the committee of both kingdoms, and on 6 August following, Newport with other garrisons, were ordered to be demolished.

The house in which Sir Samuel Luke resided, is said to have been on the Green.

In the immortal lines of Butler, Hudibras and Ralpho will ever live. Some peculiarities in the person and life of Sir Samuel Luke, marked him unequivocally. He lived to read the second canto, died in August 1670, and was buried at Cople, in Bedfordshire, his seat at Woodend being in that parish, and about five miles from Bedford. During the war, before his opprobrious title was exhibited to the public, he was alternately praised and blamed. Birkenhead calls him "horrible Sir Samuel," and describes him as one who abhorred every thing comely. Cleveland is merry on his diminutive stature ; and Needham, designates him as a "scarecrow." Needham sometimes used different language ; for he elsewhere says, "I cannot let this noble commander passe without a just ceremony to his valour and activity, who watches the enemy so industriously, that they eat, sleep, drink not, whisper not, but he can give us an account of their darkest proceeding ; one that is as *tall* in activity, courage, and resolution, as any commander in all our armies,"

The figure which this commander has made in Hudibras, is well known. He was a colonel of foot, and a captain of horse, on the remodelling of the militia; on the calling of a new parliament, he was returned a member for Bedford. His last years are said to have been embittered by the satire of Butler, in which he was certainly severely treated.

Newport Pagnell Hospital.

John de Somery, about 1281, founded the hospital here, which was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, and rated in 1535, at £6/6/8. It was re-founded by Anne of Denmark, Queen to King James 1. for three poor men and three poor woman above the age of fifty years, and has since been called Queen Anne's Hospital. The vicar of Newport for the time being is appointed master of the hospital, in augmentation of his vicarage, by letters patent, dated 1608. In the Roll of Chantries, in 1547, are the following remarks:

To what intent this Hospital was founded, is not known, because the foundation thereof remaineth with Sir Thomas Thornam, master there, which is not resident. The said Hospital is situate within the said Town of Newport, which is a Market Town and thoroughfare.

The chief endowments consist of $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Chicheley, some land and common rights in Caldecote, a meadow called Lion's Holm, another called Beggar's Holm, and divers Tenements.

Madox mentions two hospitals here; one dedicated to St. Margaret, before 1240; and another called the New Hospital, but no further accounts seem to have been preserved. Willis remarks that the Old Hospital was founded by John de Paynton, and valued at £6/6/8; and that John de Colne was admitted master in 1232.

In 1558, Queen Elizabeth, by patent, in pursuance of a warrant to Henry Newell, for *Concealments*, granted to *Edward Wymarke, inter alia*, on the petition of Edward Dyer, "all those free Chapels of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, in Newpot, and all lands belonging to them given to superstitious uses, to hold in free soccage by fealty, at 20d. per annum rent tenend. as of the manor of East Greenwich," and in 31 Elizabeth, in satisfaction of a warrant to Peter Gray, for concealed lands granted to Walter Copenger and Thomas Butler, *inter alia*, certain rents to find a Chaplain to the Chapels of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and the Chantry in the parish of St. Peter, there founded.

Willis states, that the mastership was of the settled value of £15 per annum; of which, £10 was paid by the inpropriator, and £5 by some scattered pieces of glebe; and that the above stipend had been agreed upon about three hundred years before his time, and was a *great wrong* to the vicarage; the value in Ecton, 1534, being £10, and the clear annual value £38/14/-. The house appropriated to the mastership had been converted into a new vicarage house, by Dr. Thomas Banks, in 1700, who is said to have rebuilt it by subscription.

The Hospital stands close to the side of the iron bridge, in St. John Street, and the London Road. It was rebuilt in 1891, in the Elizabethan style and still retains on the front, the following original and quaint inscription:

AL YOV GOOD CRISTIANS THAT HERE DOE PAS
BY GIVE SOME THING TO THESE POORE PEOPLE
THAT IN St. IOHNS HOSPITAL DOETH LY. AN. 1615.

The stipend of the master of the Hospital is £20 per annum, but he is also entitled to a moiety of the surplus income. Each of the six inmates receives 8/- a week, coal at certain seasons, and a suit of clothes every alternate year.

Masters of the Hospital, Newport Pagnell.

ADAM RUSSEL, the first master mentioned in the institutions at Lincoln. He died 1291; and

GILBERT DE LUDA was instituted 5 July 1291, on the presentation of Sir Roger de Somery, lord of Newport. He died; and

RICHARD DE WYLIES (WYLLLEN?) was presented 18 December, by Sir Roger de Somery, and resigned in 1340.

JOHN DRAYTON was presented by John Bottetourt 1340.

WILLIAM DRAPER was presented 5 November 1345, by Sir John Bottetourt, lord of Newport.

THOMAS MORE died master 1360.

HENRY DE HAWKSHEAD was presented 10 July 1360, by Sir John de Bottetourt.

RALPH HAYWARD succeeded 25 January 1369, on the death of the last named, on the presentation of Sir John de Bottetourt. He is supposed to be the same person who was vicar in 1378.

JOHN DENE was presented 22 August 1374, by Sir John de Bottetourt. He exchanged for Bereford vicarage, in Bedfordshire, with

JOHN CARTER, who was presented 18 October 1381, by Sir John de Bottetourt. He died; and

THOMAS MOODY was presented 23 November 1386, by Sir Thomas Harcourt.

HENRY SMITH died master 1403. At his death,

WILLIAM BAYNTON or BOYNTON. S.T.P., was presented 5 July 1483, by Richard, king of England. He died; and

THOMAS URMESTONE was presented 8 December 1496, "ex concessione Comitiss de Ormonde," lord of Newport. He died vicar in 1501; and

THOMAS SMITHSON was presented by Thomas earl of Ormonde 25 July 1501. At his death,

THOMAS COPLAND, S.T.P., succeeded 10 July 1506, being presented by Thomas Earl of Ormonde. On his cession,

EDWARD CAMPION. or CHAMPION, was presented 7 February, 1510 by Thomas Earl of Ormonde. He died in 1529.

THOMAS THORNHAM was presented 25 May 1529, by grant from Anne St. Leger, widow, lady of Newport.

JOHN SANDERSON was instituted 6 December 1548, on queen Catherine Parr's presentation.

THOMAS POTTER was presented 11 November 1590, on the bishop's collation, per lapsum. He was vicar of Newport, and afterwards of Willen, where he died; and was succeeded in this hospital, and at Willen, by

THOMAS UNDERHILL, instituted 4 April 1600, on the queen's title.

WILLIAM HICKS, M.A., succeeded 14 July 1607. One of both his names died in 1646, rector of Stoke Hammond. Since this time, it has been constantly holden with, and annexed to the vicarage of Newport Pagnell.

Newport Pagnell Vicarage.

Independent of the mastership of the old Hospital, appears to have been always of very small value. Strype has specially mentioned, that Newport Pagnell vicarage, in 1556, which was one of those benefices

whereof the impropriated rectories had been given to Cardinal Pole, had been suffered to remain vacant during several years successively, on account of its insufficiency to provide for a minister; and that it was presented, at the ecclesiastical visitation of the diocese, by a commission from the cardinal, that it was without a vicar, on account of the deficiency of stipend. Bradwell, Olney, Ivinghoe, Swanbourne, and Dunton, with Littleington, in Bedfordshire, and St. Paul's, in the town of Bedford, were represented in a similar neglected condition.

The tithes were commuted for land in 1806 and 1807.

The present vicarage house is a stucco-fronted unpretentious residence, situated on the south side and nearly in the centre of the High Street.

Vicars of Newport Pagnell.

WILLIAM, first vicar, died 1263; and was succeeded by,
 HENRY DE BUCKDEN, presented 8 February 1263. He died in 1265; and was succeeded by
 PETER DE ULSINGTON, presented 18 February 1265, by the prior and convent of Newport Pagnell.
 WILLIAM occurs vicar in 1289.
 ROBERT GRETE, GRELE, or GULE, was presented in February 1294. He died; and
 GEFREY DE WENRICK was presented 10 October 1296. He resigned; and
 WILLIAM DE ROKELE, was presented 2 December 1303, by the prior of Tickford. He died; and
 ARNALD DE BELLVALL was presented 7 December 1319. He exchanged it for Astwood, with
 JOHN COLE, who was presented 1 May 1329. He exchanged it for Kempston, with
 JOHN AMICE, who was presented 3 October, 1332. He resigned, and
 ROBERT DE SHIRINGTON, was instituted 14 November 1343, on the king's presentation, by reason of the temporalities of Tickford priory being in his hands, on account of the wars with France.
 WILLIAM CORBETT died in 1378; and was succeeded by
 THOMAS EVERARD, who was instituted 14 November 1378, on the king's presentation. He exchanged for Bosgrave vicarage, with
 RALPH HAYWARD, who was presented 28 October 1378.
 WALTER DOBBS was presented 9 May 1386.
 ROBERT MAGELYN, or MASELY, was presented by the king 9 November 1394.
 THOMAS CROSSE died vicar 1453; and was succeeded by
 RICHARD LEVANOTLYS or LEVENOTLY, who was presented 20 July 1453. At his death,
 JOHN CHADILWORTH was presented 11 November 1472, by the convent of Tickford. He resigned; and
 JOHN PALCOT, or PELCOT, was presented 22 December 1472.
 THOMAS URMESTON was presented 16 February 1481. At his death,
 JOHN BLOTT was presented 23 July 1501, by the convent of Tickford. On his resignation,
 JOHN BLACKETT was presented 6 August 1511.
 WILLIAM HARWOOD, B.A., was presented by the king 28 May 1536. He occurs vicar in 1548.
 THOMAS was in 1561, returned to be "Curatus de Newport Pagnell."
 THOMAS POTTER resigned 1575, being vicar of Willen, and master of the Hospital here. He was succeeded by
 THOMAS YARROW, who was presented by the queen 29 March 1575. He died; and
 THOMAS WEBB, B.A., was presented 16 June 1609, by the crown. Becoming rector of Clifton Reynes in 1621, resigned this living; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM STAPP, M.A., who was instituted 8 October 1622. He died; being succeeded by

- SAMUEL AUSTIN, M.A., who was presented by the crown 31 March 1641. He occurs vicar in 1640; and seems to have been put out in 1648, for
- JOHN GIBBS, a dissenting teacher, intruded, and held this vicarage till 1660; when, being deprived, he lived afterwards in the town, and preached in private buildings till his death, about 1698. John Gibbs was turned out for refusing to admit the whole parish to receive the Communion. In the Rebellion, Gibbs was very active; and upon the arrest of Sir George Booth, he took horse, and rode to London, to communicate the earliest intelligence of an event so agreeable to the wishes of the Parliament; and the House then sitting, being informed that Mr. John Gibbs, vicar of Newport Pagnell, was at the door, he was called in; and, at the Bar, gave an account of the apprehending of Sir George Booth at Newport Pagnell. Sir George, afterwards; by way of returning the favour, probably took part in the expulsion of Gibbs from his Living, into which he had intruded in 1648, when Samuel Austin, the rightful vicar was thrust out. In 1650, the vicarage was returned to be vacant. Gibbs never was presented; but is described in Carpenter's "Anabaptist," to have been, in 1647, *newly settled in place*.
- ROBERT MARSHALL was presented by the crown 16 January 1660. He occurs vicar in 1663, and quitted it for a better preferment.
- THOMAS ASPIN succeeded 6 October 1663. He was also master of the Hospital, as have been all his successors. He was succeeded by
- JOHN HOWARD, M.A., vicar of Stantonbury, who was presented in February 1678. He quitted it for Marston Trussel, in Northamptonshire. He was succeeded by
- JOHN COOK, M.A., 9 April 1685. He died and was buried in the chancel; being succeeded by
- THOMAS BANKS, S.T.P., who had been beneficed in Ireland. He took the vicarage, 2 March 1688; and when grown old, resigned to his son, and died about six months afterwards.
- LOWNDE BANKS, B.A., was instituted 7 June 1716, and died in 1757, "a batchelor, and rich." He was buried in the chancel; being succeeded by
- ROBERT WATSON, who was presented by the crown, and inducted 12 May 1757. He died, and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM DAVIES 4 April 1788, who died in 1809.
- CHARLES KIPLING, LL.B., was instituted 14 February 1810. He was also vicar of Stony Stratford, to which curacy he was presented in the preceding year, by the crown. He resigned Newport vicarage in 1822, being presented, by the crown, to the rectory of Colston in Leicestershire, but retained the curacy of Stony Stratford till his death. He was succeeded in this vicarage by
- WILLIAM MARSHALL, M.A., presented in 1822 on whose cession, was succeeded by
- JAMES GEORGE DURHAM, M.A., who was presented in February 1831. He died 7 June 1832.
- A. HARE, M.A., was presented in 1832; and at his death, was succeeded by
- GEORGE MORLEY, B.A., who was succeeded by
- HUGH H. BIRLEY, who was presented in 1865. He was succeeded by
- ARTHUR L. C. HEIGHAM, presented in 1866. At his cession,
- CHARLES MACMAHON OTTLEY, was presented in 1875.

SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Newport Pagnell.

This noble church was, according to Willis, erected by one of the priors of Tickford, and it is supposed to occupy a portion of the site of the ancient castle. It is a large stone structure, comprising a west tower, a nave with north and south aisles with each a porch, and a chancel. The tower is low, square, massive, and embattled, and was designed to support a spire; it is in the Perpendicular style. The cornice and crocketed pinnacles are new. The north aisle and chancel are Perpendicular; the south aisle is modern; the naves and aisles are covered with lead and are embattled; the chancel is tiled. At the east end of the nave, on the south side, is an octagonal stair turret leading



NEWPORT HIGH STREET, LOOKING NORTH.



NEWPORT PAGNELL PARISH CHURCH.

to the roof; the north porch is spacious, has a groined vault, and a parvise above it. The south porch has a fine Early English arcade; the outer and inner doorways of both porches are deeply recessed; and there is a good doorway in the tower. The tower contains a clock with chimes that strike the quarters and play every third hour one of the following tunes:

The National Anthem.
God Bless the Prince of Wales.
Rockingham.
Hanover.
Mariner's Hymn.
Adeste Fideles.
Believe me if all those endearing young
charms.

The Blue Bells of Scotland.
Robin Adair.
Last Rose of Summer.
The Minstrel Boy.
Home, Sweet Home.
On the banks of Allan Water.
The Ash Grove.

and a splendid peal of eight bells, inscribed:

	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Tone.</i>
	cwt. q. lbs.	
<i>First</i> : At Proper times my voice i'll raise and sound to my creator's Praise T LESTER FECIT 1749	6 3 0	E flat
<i>Second</i> : THOMAS LESTER MADE ME 1749	7 2 22	D
<i>Third</i> : JN BURATT & JNO SMITH CH WARDENS LEST- ER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1769	7 1 25	C
<i>Fourth</i> : 1749 THOS LESTER. And 3 crowns and 2 shillings of the reign of George I.	8 3 15	B flat
<i>Fifth</i> : 1749 T: LESTER OF LONDON	10 2 4	A flat
<i>Sixth</i> : XX> THOMAS LESTER MADE ME 1749 <XXX	12 3 0	G
<i>Seventh</i> : THE REV ^d CHARLES KIPLING VICAR WM WHITE EDW ^d CLEAVER CHURCH WARDENS 1816 T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT	15 3 4	F
<i>Eighth</i> : NUNTIA SUM CŒPTÆ PERITURÆ PRÆVIA VITÆ. ET MODO TRANSACTÆ VOX EGO CERTA TUÆ. THE REV ^d CHARLES KIP- LING VICAR WILLIAM WHITE EDWARD CLEAVER CHURCH WARDENS 1819. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT	22 2 16	E flat
<i>Sanctus</i> : A C 1671	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	

Sanctus: A C 1671

Clock Bell: CAST BY GILLETT & Co CROYDON

The eight old bells that hang around,
Invite me to add my sound;
The National Anthem help to play,
With other tunes both night & day.
And thus Victoria's Jubilee,
Remembered evermore may be.
Presented by F J Taylor of
Newport Pagnell on the
celebration of the Jubilee
of Queen Victoria,
June 20, 1887.

The following paragraph was published by the *Northampton Mercury* on August 17, 1793:

TO THE PRINTERS:—We cannot refrain from communicating to the public, with contempt, the erroneous paragraph which made its way into the *Buckinghamshire*

Herald, on the 10th of August instant, under the signature of "A Constant Reader," dated Newport Pagnell, August 2nd, 1793, wherein it sets forth that a Mr. Botham, banker, in this town, on receiving the news of the surrender of Valenciennes to the British arms, ordered the bells to be rung, and gave a very handsome present for that purpose. We, whose names are herunto subscribed, the ringers in, and of, the said parish, do declare to a man, we know no such person as Mr. Botham, and upon the strictest enquiry cannot learn who he is. And we also declare, and wish it to be made publicly known through the channels of your paper, that on every occasion that does honour to our King and Country, we come forward as Britons, without any solicitation whatever, and the gentlemen in our own parish, without the assistance of any other person or persons, cheerfully second our endeavours, and give us every gratification we wish for.

Witness our hands this 8th of August, 1793.

Edward Simcox.

Wm. Pearce.

Charles Brandon.

Thomas Harvey.

Samuel Smith.

George Nickleton.

Joseph Joyce (× the mark of)

William Joyce.

B. Trulove.

The spacious nave is of six large bays, the arches being pointed, and the pillars supporting them, clustered. The timber roofs are good, and exhibit figures playing musical instruments, and other devices; the stone corbels are carved to represent angels bearing shields; the thirteen clerestory windows are of three lights each; and the aisles are lighted by handsome and regular three-light windows, with quatrefoils, etc., in the heads. At the east end of the south aisle is a good cinque-foiled arcade or sedilia, which doubtless belonged to a chantry founded in this church by Richard Burgess, and worth £3/9/4 per annum. The galleries erected in the aisles unfortunately mar the effect of the arches of the nave and windows of the aisles. The font is ornamented and modern. The handsome brass lectern, representing a spread-eagle with three angels around the pedestal, is inscribed as follows: To the glory of God In memory of Philip and Margaret Buttler of Tickford Abbey. Presented by their sons, Christmas 1898.

The pulpit is of carved oak and is mounted upon a stone pedestal; it was the gift of Mrs. Oliver-Massey, of Tickford Abbey. The chancel is approached through a fine pointed arch and an open oak screen, nicely carved, on the right of which is a narrow plain pointed door, leading to the stair turret before mentioned. The roof is modern and of carved oak. The reredos is of oak, in three compartments, each filled with beautiful oil paintings; the centre being Christ crucified with side panels representing SS. Peter and Paul; the left compartment being the birth of Christ; the right compartment contains Christ's resurrection; the railing in front of it is also of oak, as well as the two Glastonbury chairs, and the credence table; the floor is composed of black and white marble, with reference to which there is a brass plate upon the south wall, inscribed: To the Glory of God the marble floor was placed in this chancel by request of Catherine Elizabeth Taylor, A.D. 1894. The roof of the chancel was restored at the same time by her sons and daughters in loving remembrance.

On each side is a doorway much wider than the usual doors in chancels; that on the north now leads to the vestry. The chancel is lighted by three two-light windows on the south side, two on the north side, and a large three-light one in the east end, all renewed in 1858,

and glazed with stained glass. The east window represents Our Saviour bearing the cross, and the patron saints of the church (Peter and Paul); and the tracery in the sweep of the arch angels with musical instruments. The first window on the south side contains figures of SS. Thomas and Matthias; the second of SS. Jude and Barnabas; and the third of SS. James (major) and John. The first window on the north side exhibits SS. Simon and Matthew; the second SS. Bartholomew and Philip. These windows are finished with angels, foliage, etc., in the heads, and borders. There is a piscina in the south wall.

Cole censures the removal (about 1738), of the stone mullions of the chancel windows, and the substitution of iron frames, by Mr. Pomfret, an opulent inhabitant of Newport "at an unreasonable expense to Sir Richard Atkins, the then Impropiator."

The organ chamber contains a fine and powerful organ, which bears a plate inscribed : A.M.D.D. George Gooch and his sister Anne gave this organ to lead the praises of God in their parish church, where during long lives they were devout and pious worshippers.

The east window of the south aisle is in four compartments, and the subjects are : Moses lifting up the brazen serpent; Christ healing the lame man at the pool of Bethesda; Christ giving sight to the blind; and the good Samaritan. Beneath is a brass plate inscribed: This window was erected to the memory of Robert Collison, surgeon, a liberal benefactor to this parish, who died April 3, 1860, aged 78 years, by his graceful friend, George Morley, vicar. The stained glass memorial window on the south side is inscribed : This window was erected by George Collison, brother of Robert, who died Sept. 15, 1862, aged 75 years.

Through the very fine pointed tower arch is seen the west window of four lights, separated by transoms, and with tracery in the head. Each compartment contains a patriarch or prophet. The top row, from left to right, are : Isaac, Noah, Abraham, and Jacob. The bottom row are : Isaiah, Moses, David, and Jeremiah. There is in the nave an illuminated brass plate in reference to this window, inscribed : Glory of God and in memory of Samuel Wilberforce, for 25 years bishop of Oxford, the parishioners of Newport Pagnell have placed in the west window of this church figures of patriarchs and prophets whose labours he emulated and whose rest he shares.

From the centre of the belfry roof is suspended a brass chandelier of eighteen lights inscribed "The gift of Mr. James Leverett, whitesmith of this parish, May 1758." This formerly lighted the chancel.

The church contains memorials to the members of the families of Chapman, Revis, Pike, Price, Jenkins, Taylor, Barringer, Knibb, Forster, Collison, Kilpin, Lucas, Powell, Johnson, Van Hagen, Rogers, Atkins, etc.

The edifice was thoroughly restored in 1826-7, at a cost of nearly £7,000; in 1858 the chancel was restored at a cost of about £500, which was raised by a bazaar, and public subscriptions.

Weever, in his *Funeral Monuments*, says : In the north aisle was found, in 1619, the body of a man, whole and perfect, laid down, or

rather leaning down, north and south; all the *concave* parts of the body and the hollowness of every bone, ribs as well as others, being filled with solid lead. The skull, with the lead in it, weighed thirty pounds six ounces; which, with the neck bone, and some others (as full of lead), were preserved in a chest in the church, near to the place where the corpse was found, in order to be shewn to strangers, as relics. The rest of the body was taken away by gentlemen, near dwellers, or such as take delight in rare antiquities. "This I saw."

It is conjectured to have been buried soon after the introduction of Christianity into England. In Cole's mss. the head is said to have been, in 1776, preserved in the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge.

There was a small Chantry Chapel, "within the Parish Church of St. Peter and Paul, in the Towne of Newport," founded by Richard Burges, and worth £3/9/4 per annum. Richard Downe, clerk, was incumbent in 1549, then of the age of 56 years. He had, in 1553, a stipend of £2/6/8 only per annum but what other living he had, is not known.

The churchyard and adjoining cemetery are most beautifully situated, and, with their adornments make one of the chief features of attraction in Newport Pagnell. In the churchyard, on the south side of the church and near the river, is an altar-shaped tomb bearing an inscription written by the poet Cowper, and reads: Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Thos. Abbott Hamilton, who departed this life July 7th, 1788, in the thirty-second year of his age.

Pause here and think, Amonitory rhyme
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time.
Consult Life's silent clock, thy bounding vein
Seems to say—Health here has long to reign!
Hast thou the vigour of thy youth? an eye
That beams delight? a heart untaught to sigh?
Yet fear. Youth oft times, healthful and at ease
Anticipates, a day it never sees,
And many a tomb, like HAMILTON's aloud
Exclaims, "Prepare thee for an early Shroud."

W. COWPER.

The registers commence with the year 1558, and appear to have been accurately preserved, with the exception of those for 1587 and 1588, which are wanting.

The Congregational Chapel, Newport Pagnell,

Was founded and erected for a congretation of Protestant Dissenters under the instruction and ministry of the Rev. William Bull, about the middle of the last century. The building is of red brick with stone facings it has a double entrance door above which is a circular window of much tracery, containing stained glass. It is in a retired situation. On a brass plate, affixed to the reading board of the old pulpit, now much prized by members of the chapel, are these words: This board once formed part of the pulpit of the celebrated John

Bunyan, and was presented to the Trustees of the Independent Meeting, by the Rev. William Bull.

Revere the man, whose Pilgrim marks the road,
And guides the *progress* of the soul to God.—*Cowper*.

The adjacent burial-ground is planted with shrubs and flowers. There are vaults under the vestry and chapel.

Within, are the following monumental inscriptions;

In Memory of Thomas Hacket, late of Oakley, Bedfordshire, formerly a Student in the Newport Pagnell Evangelical Institution, who having nearly completed his studies was suddenly removed to a better world, June IV MDCCCXXI, aged 27 years. His remains were interred in the adjoining burial ground.

In Memory of the Rev. Thomas James, eldest son of Mr. James of Clarberton, in Pembrokehire, who departed this life the 23rd of February 1795, in the 20th year of his age, while pursuing his studies for the Ministry, under the Rev. William Bull. His remains were interred in the adjoining burying-ground. O, Reader! whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy Might.

In Memory of Joseph Cripps, who departed this life January 17th 1827. in the 68th year of his age; Susanna, his wife who died April 10th 1839, aged 71 years; and Mary their daughter, who died February 22nd 1834, in her 30th year. "These all died in Faith, having," as members of the Church of Christ, in this place, "witnessed a good confession," and "adorned the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things."

This Tablet was erected A.D. 1829, by the Congregation under the pastoral care of the Rev. T. P. Bull, to perpetuate the memory of the Rev. John Gibbs, formerly of the University of Cambridge, who preached the Gospel in this Town upwards of fifty-one years; during twelve of which, he was Vicar of this Parish; ejected from the Church A.D. 1660, for conscientiously refusing to allow of promiscuous communion at the Lord's Table. He retired, with many of his Congregation, to a building near this spot, and continued his labours among them to the end of his days, except when interrupted by the persecution and imprisonment he endured for conscience sake. His valuable Life, which was distinguished for Piety, Learning, and Usefulness, was closed on the 16th June A.D., 1699, in the 72nd year of his age. His remains were interred near the south door of the chancel, in the church-yard of this town. Since that period it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to continue in this place a succession of faithful Ministers, who have uniformly maintained these important doctrines which Mr. Gibbs preached, and for which he suffered. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Tingey, in 1699; John Hunt, 1709; William Hunt, 1725; David Fordyce, M.A.; James Belsham, 1749; William Bull, 1763.

Holiness becometh thine House, O Lord! for ever.

This Tablet is sacred to the Memory of the late Rev. Joseph Ward. He was born at Market Lavington, Wilts, the 2nd of January 1771; became a resident at Newport Pagnell, A.D. 1803; was appointed a Deacon of the Christian Church assembling in this place, A.D. 1824; died on the 2nd of June 1829, aged 58 years.

Remember his work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Thess. i. 3.

I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness.

In the adjoining burying ground Rest in lively hope, the Mortal remains of Elizabeth, wife of William Barker Kilpin. She was born at Stansted, Essex, 11 October 1780; was united to this Christian Society 1 October 1803; died 15 January 1808, after an illness of three days.

How many fall as sudden, not as safe.

Near the same spot lie interred, two of their children, William Johnstone and Edward Wells Kilpin, who died in their infancy.

Sacred to the Memory of Amelia Anna Higgins, eldest daughter of Walter and Ann Beaty, who departed this life the 3^d of December, 1834, aged 76 years.

My flesh also shall rest in hope.—Psalm xvii. 9.

Sacred to the Memory of most revered Parents, Walter Beaty, who died on the 22^d May 1791, aged 63; and Ann Beaty, who died on the 24th November 1799, aged 61; and a beloved brother, Walter Beaty, who departed 2^d December 1801, aged 44; this Marble is erected.

Sincere and just, beneficent and kind,
The friend, the Christian, in the father joined;
The Mother's mildness blest each varying scene;
Her judgement just, her piety serene.
Their mingled worth adorned their son's career,
And all who knew, bemoaned our brother's bier.
Besides their Urn, fond Memory, weeping, stands,
While Faith unfolds to Hope the "House not made with hands."

Near this Monumental Tablet are desposited the remains of Ann, daughter of John and Sarah Hamilton, of this Town, and wife of Samuel Greatheed. She was born 27 March 1758; became a Member of the Independent Church assembling in this place, 7 March 1784; departed this life 28 Aug. 1807, and was interred 3 September, on the same day and hour in which, nineteen years before, she had been married.

Reader! reflect for a moment. One lies here,
Whose hope was humble, and whose heart sincere;
God gave her wealth; she lavished not the store,
But spared it for the Gospel and the Poor.
Devoted to the duties of a Wife,
She scorned the gaudy vanities of life.
Her husband much she loved—but more her God:
Meekly she bowed to his paternal rod:
And when, by faith and patience, purified,
She slept in Christ—'twas the survivor died.

The inscription on the Monument of the Rev. William Bull is surmounted with a medallion portrait; before which is a volume, open at the following passage:

Having made peace, through the blood of his Cross.

Beneath this Tablet are deposited the remains of the Reverend William Bull, who was ordained Minister of the Church assembling in this place 11 Oct. 1764, and gently breathed his soul to rest 23 July 1814, in his 76th year. To him, his friend, the immortal Cowper, bears this testimony: "He was a Dissenter, a liberal one, a man of letters and genius; master of a fine imagination; a man of erudition and ability." These talents he employed in preaching Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in training up young men for the Gospel Ministry. His Church and Congregation, thankful for the faithful and successful labours of half a century, have erected this small tribute of their gratitude and affection. Near the same spot are also deposited all that was mortal of Hannah Bull, wife of the Rev. William Bull. She fell asleep in Jesus 26 Feb. 1804, aged 67 years.

Besides other memorials to the greatly respected family of Bull, there are those to members of the families of Miller, Rogers, Osborn, and Ward.

In connection with this chapel, there was an academy for the education of young men to the ministry, established 1780, by the united efforts of the Rev. John Newton, of Olney; Cowper, the poet; the Rev. John Clayton, senr., Mr. John Thornton, and others. Mr. Bull was, 1786, appointed tutor, with the assistance of Mr. Greatheed; which

after Mr. Bull's decease, was supported by voluntary contributions. In 1800, the Rev. Thomas Palmer Bull was appointed co-pastor with his father, and assistant-tutor to the academy : and thirty-three years afterwards, received the like assistance in his duties, as pastor and tutor, in the person of his son, the Rev. Josiah Bull, M.A.; but, in October, 1841, both of them resigned their office and connection with the academy; and the Rev. John Watson succeeded them as the sole tutor. The average number of students was eight, and the period of their studies four years. The academy has for many years been used as the manse.

Tickford Abbey, or Priory,

Was so nearly adjacent to the town of Newport Pagnell as to be often called the priory of Newport. It was founded by Faulk Paganell, in the reign of William Rufus, as a cell of Cluniac Monks, or Black Canons to whom he gave the manor but subordinate to the abbey of St Martin, *Majoris Monasterii*, commonly called Marmonstiers at Tours. It was seized as an alien priory, by Edward III., during the wars with France; but restored by Henry IV., and made subject to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in York. Henry VIII., suppressed this monastery in 1525, with twenty others of the small monasteries, its revenue being then estimated at only £126/17/- per annum, under a Bull of Pope Clement, and gave it, with all its lands, to Cardinal Wolsey. After the cardinal's disgrace it was given by the king to Christ Church College, in Oxford; but was afterwards resumed by the crown.

In 1719, the original gateway was standing, consisting of a large and small arch at the entrance into the convent, with some few remains of the old building; besides five or six pillars, which had supported the nave of the priory church, with the arches which had been turned over them; but they had wholly disappeared before 1831; when a small plain low mansion occupied part of the site, with a rather long thatched barn or grainary adjacent, towards the south. This house, which is still denominated Tickford Abbey, is built on the site of the mansion of Anthony Cave, Esq., the lessee of Henry VIII. Tickford is south-east from Newport church, the situation is very low, and liable to inundation. In a register of the deeds of the monastery of Newport Pagnell, it is stated, that, by the charter of Gervase Paganell, divers lands were given to the monks of the greater monastery, dedicated to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Newport; to which charter, Ralph Paganell his father, and Fulk his grandfather, the Earl Simon (no doubt, Simon de Liz) and Isabella his countess were witnesses; with Peter Dapifer, Pagan de Amberton (of Emberton), Godfrey de Zoili (de Say), Michael Fitz Osbert, William Paganell, and Bernard his son. The house was situated in Newport, with lands in Bradfield and Botenden. Gervase Paganell also confirmed to the monks aforesaid, a messuage in Newport, which Balwin Bernard held there, at the request of Henry Bishop of Lincoln, and of Isabella his countess, for the health of the souls of their children. Witnesses, Isabella the Countess, Ralph de Someri, Henry de Mont(fort) Fulk Paganell, William his brother, and

William, son of Wido.

Ralph de Someri confirmed to the aforesaid monks, all the churches with their chapels, which had been given by his ancestors, viz., the church of Newport with the chapels of Linford, Estwood (Astwood,) and Wylyn (Willen,) the church of Chicheley with its chapels; the church of Aston with its chapels; the church of Botenden, &c. Witnesses, Fulk Paganell, William Fitz Guido, Alan de Bromwich, Robert Paganell, William the Chaplain, &c.

Ralph de Someri gave to the monks, one virgate of land in Tickford, with two messuages.

Fulk Paganell and Beatrix his wife, gave to God and the Blessed Virgin and the monks of the greater monastery, the church of St. Peter of Newport, and the chapel of Linford; the tithes of the town mill, and the eels there; the church of *Bernaches*; and two parts of the vill of Sepeling (?) and one hide of land in Hardmead, being the gift of Bartholomew Paganell, his eldest son, and of Robert and William, brothers of the same Fulk Elias, the monk, nephew of Fulk Paganell, being witness.

Ralph de Someri gave to the monks of Newport, ten shillings in the vill of Botyndon, &c., which was of the donations of Gervase Paganell, his uncle.

John de Mansell confirmed to the monks, the gift of Walter Mansell his father, bestowed for the health of the soul of Robert Paganell, son of Gervase Paganell, in his court at Sulebury (Soulbury); Philip Mansell his brother, Henry, Peter, and Robert, his brothers, being witnesses.

Gervase Paganell gave all his land in Chicheley, which William Paganell held of him there; with the consent of his wife, the Countess Isabell, to the monks of Newport.

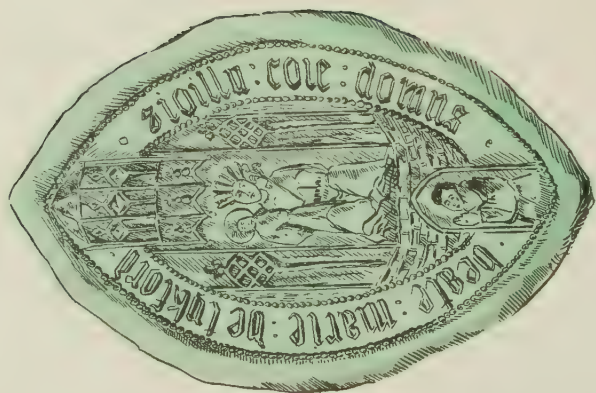
Hugh Paganell gave to the monks of Tickford, one acre of meadow in Westmede, and endowed the church therewith, at its dedication by Henry Bishop of Llandaff, then official of the church of Lincoln; Michael, the dean, being witness.

Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, by a charter of inspeximus to Robert Bishop of Lincoln, granted to the monks of Newport, the presentation of Gervase Paganell to the church of *Bernaches*, and the chapel of Little Crawley; and the same Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury, by his inspeximus, confirmed the preceding grants.

Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Cardinal of the Holy See, gave the churches of Eston and Homespil, in the dioceses of Coventry and Bath, to the proper use of the monks at Newport, which had been granted and confirmed by Hubert, his predecessor; with other possessions, bestowed by Theobald, also his predecessor, and confirmed by the authority of the See of Canterbury, by charter, dated in June 1224.

Henry II., likewise confirmed the charters of Faulk Paganell, and other benefactors.

William Paganell, by an agreement with the prior and monks of Newport Pagnell, confirmed the ordination of Joceline Bishop of Bath, by



SEALS OF BEATE AND GERVASE OF TICKFORD AND NEWPORT.

In green and red wax.

which that bishop gave his lands in Homespil, by a charter, dated at Bath, 18 May, in the 20th year of his episcopacy.

Gervase Paganell gave to the monks of Newport, the church of Eston with its chapels of Jerdeley (Yardley), of Bromwich, and Overton; and all the lands which William Paganell held in Chicheley; Robert Earl of Leicester, Ernald de Bosco, William Fitz Wido, Peter de Birmingham and Alexander de Whitacre, being witnesses.

Hawisia Paganell gave to the monks of Newport, two virgates of land, which Jeffrey, the son of Henry, held in Little Crawley, and which had been given to John de Someri, her husband, to the said monks; Ralph de Someri, her son, being witness; and Ralph confirmed this donation; Faulk Paganell being his witness. This John de Someri gave to the prior and convent of Tickford, right of fishery in the river *Lovent*, at Newport, in exchange for certain fees and perquisites, amounting to 13/11 claimed and belonging to Henry Spigurnell, by a deed dated at Willen, in 1316.

“Richard, by the grace of God, Bishop of Lincoln. To all to whom, &c. Whereas we have given and granted to the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Newport, and the monks of the greater monastery there serving God, the churches and their chapels following: the church of Newport, with the chapel of Linford; the church of Little Crawley; the church of Chicheley and the chapel; the church of Bolendone and the chapel; the church of Estwode; and the church of Bernakes, which Fulc Paganell and Ralph his son, and Gervase, the son of Ralph, had granted to those canons; also the church of Sherrington, of the gift of William de Sherrington, lord and founder of the chapel of Bradwell, of the gift of Robert de Bradwell and William de Kahaines, its lords and founders; and of the church of Wilenges (Willen), of the gift of Philip de Kahaines, its lord and founder; and the chapel of Pettesho, of the gift of Osbert Dapifer and Michael his son, its lords and founders; and the mediety of the church of Great Crawley; and the church of Brotone, of the gift of Robert de Brotone, &c.”

The first charter of Gervase Paganell was made according to Dugdale in 1187, and had a seal affixed; representing a knight on horseback, with a round helmet, a large sword erect in his right hand; and before his heart, a shield, resting on the pommel of his saddle, charged with two lioncels passant in pale; around it **SI ILLVM . ERVASII . PAGANELL.**

By an inquisition taken at Little Brickhill 18 September, 1526, it was returned, that the monastery of Tickford, of the Order of St. Benedict, founded by the progenitors of the king before the time of memory, was resigned 24 January, 1525, with the consent of the Bishop of Lincoln; whereby the king became possessed of the manor of Tickford, extending into Newport, Caldecote, Bradwell, and Crawley; of a Leet in Crawley, valued at £18/10/11½, of the manor of Chicheley; Court Leet and View of Frankpledge, valued at £35/18/-; of the manor of Thickethorn, with its appurtenances in Chicheley; value £3/6/8; and in the Lordship of this said manor, ten acres, value £5; one water mill in Caldecote, at £6/3/4; messuages and twenty acres in Gothurst, at 8/-; thirty-two acres in Sherrington, at 8/8; a close in Ekeney and sixty acres, at 40/-; and twenty acres in Ekeney at 8/-; also the parish churches of Chicheley, Newport Pagnell, Bradwell, Astwood, and Willen; and that these rectories or parish churches, were appropriated

to the prior or priors, by grant of the king's predecessors, valued at £53/5/4; with portions of tithes in Lintord at 5/-; in Wolston, 0/8; in Sounbury, held by the Abbat of Woburn, 5/-; in Loughton, 5/-; rents out of closes in Thornton, Soulbury, Liscombe, Filgrave, Clifton, Sherrington, and Lathbury; and lands in Liscombe, in the occupation of Thomas Lovett, &c.

In 1541, the king granted to Anthony Cave, "the manor of the late dissolved priory of Tickford, with the whole site, circuit, and precinct of the same late priory," and in the same year, the possessions of the priory were, by an Act of Parliament, annexed to the manor of Ampt-hill, then created in Royal Honour. This Honour having been since given to the Russels, the Duke of Bedford, as lord there-of, holds inquests by a coroner of his own appointment in the present hamlet of Tickford, and a portion of Marsh end, as well as in nine other manors, expressed in the grant, in this county, and the king, by forced exchanges having obtained many other lands belonging to the smaller religious houses. Tickford descended to his successor, Edward VI., and was granted to his sister, the Princess Elizabeth; who, having ascended the throne, leased it, in 1573, for 21 years, to George Annesley, of Newport Pagnell, and James his son; but before the expiration of that lease, it was granted in fee, by patent, 11 November 1592, to Thomas Compton, Robert Wright, and Gelley Merrick, at the instance of that unhappy favourite, Robert Earl of Essex, K.G., and by his attainer, reverting to the crown, it was sold to Sir John Fortesque, knight, of Sulden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, during the period of his very short possession of this property, became remarkably conspicuous in the county, from the circumstance of his electioneering contest with Sir Francis Goodwin, Sir John was also unfortunate, as to have been taken prisoner in May 1644, by Sir Samuel Luke, Governor of Newport, by whom he was surprised near Islip.

In 1600, Elizabeth, in consideration of £1,534/6/- granted to Henry Adkins, M.D., and Mary his wife, and the heirs of the said Henry, for ever (with the rectory of Newport Pagnell), the manor or lordship of Tickford priory, including the mansion house of the manor, or late priory of Tickford; with the manor of Caldecot and all thereto belonging.

Dr. Atkins (one of the physicians in ordinary to the queen), was descended from a family long resident at Clapham, in Surrey; and in 1621, he purchased Tickford park for £4,500 of Lady Alice, widow of Sir John Fortescue. James I., in 1623, also granted to him, all those closes of land, meadow and pasture, in Newport and Lathbury, late parcel of the manor of Newport, viz., Bury Close, Bury Field, Bury Meadow, the Kickles Farm, and other lands; which came to the crown by the dissolution of the monasteries (or under any Act of Parliament), to hold in as ample manner as any previous possessor. The king is said to have offered him a baronet's patent, which was not accepted; but the sums respectively mentioned to have been paid for his purchase being so small, were supposed little more than fees payable to different officers. Dr. Adkins had been not only a favourite physician at court

in the time of Elizabeth and James, but is said to have been the successful instrument of restoring Prince Henry from a dangerous sickness. The doctor died in 1625, whereupon, his estates descended to his son and heir, Sir Richard Adkins, knight, and baronet, who had been previously so created by James; and who, surviving his father about four years, then died. The inquisition holden on that event, sets forth, that Sir Henry Adkins, knight, son and heir of Henry Adkins, M.D., died 8 July 1628, possessed of Tickford manor, and lands in Caldecote, Lathbury, and Gothurst, and the rectory of Newport Pagnell; and Caldecote and Newport mills, &c.

The following account of the site and demesnes of Tickford priory, is taken from the Survey, temp. Henry VIII., in the Chapel House at Westminster :

The Haul there is well cover'd with tile, and haith a little chamber adioynnyng to the same, with a butte, called a black butte.

It^m a chaumb^r at the haul dore, called the portche chaumb.

It^m a chaumb^r on the north pte of the haul, called the p're chaumber, with a chymney, a litle closet adioynnyng thereunto, and a high chaumber over the same, pertelie in decay for lack of tylyng.

It^m a chaumber on the south pte of the haul, called the King's chamber, which is seled, and the selyng therof ruinous, notwithstanding it may well be spared.

It^m a litle chaumber adioynnyng to the King's chamber.

It^m in the kechyn court is the kechyn, and a chaumber ov' the same tyled.

It^m the gate howse, and ij. upper chaubers tyled.

It^m a bultyng howse, with a chaumber ov' the same tyled.

It^m a litle stable cov'd with thack, called the Prior's stable. This may welbe spared.

It^m a bakhows with ij. owens, ovn greit and thother small.

It^m a brewhowse and ij. brewyng leds in the same.

It^m an eelyng howse, with two eelyng leds in the same,

It^m a chaumber ov' the brewhowse, cov'd with tyle.

It^m a larder howse.

The cloyster is well cov'd with sklayte, and the gutters therof bene leded, and the tymber work is good, and much stone there may be had and saved. It may well be spared.

It^m a loo chaumber, latelie called the misericorde, with a chymney, and an inner chaumber thereunto adjoynnyng.

It^m a loo parler, latelie called the farme, with a howse called the furn kechyn.

It^m the late chapit howse, wherein is a glased wyndow.

It^m the dorter chaumber cov'd with tyle, wherein is a chymney and fyve sells for the late monks there.

The Church ther is adjoynnyng to the dorter howse, which is substanciallie buylded with a fair rofe of tymber work in the bodie of the said church. which conteyneth in lenght lxxx. fote, and in brede xxi. fote.

It^m the ile on the northside ov' the belframe, the roofe whereof and is good and substanciall tymber, which conteyneth in length xxx. fote, and in brede xxi. fote.

It^m the ile on the southside the belframe is substanciallie buylded in the rofe with tymber, and conteyneth like lenght and brede as the aforesaid ile doeth.

It^m the belframe is substanciallie buylded with ston and much good tymber within the same, and three bell^e of the value of

It^m the chauncel ther is rofed with ston and tymber work ov' the same, which conteyneth in lenght xlv. fote, and in brede xxi. fote.

It^m a litle chapell adjoining to the chauncell. which conteyneth in length xvi. fote, and in brede xii. fote.

It^m there be div's wyndowes as well in the church as in the chauncell that be

glased, the glasse whereof is verie old and litle worth. The seid church, with the ilez thereunto belonging, be well cover'd with tile, which church and chauncell may wel be spared, and much good tymber and ston there had and saved. The utter court, which is the cumyng into the manor, outeyneth an acr. of ground.

In p^rme, at the cumyng into the seid court, on the gate is a chaumber tyed, and chymney therein, and a loft ov' the same.

It^m on the south side the gate is a litle chapell of o^r Ladie, which is cov'd with tile, and buylded wh^o studded.

It^m a litle bell in the chapell eend.

It^m a loo parler, and a chaumber ov' the same, which stond adioynyng to the seid chapell, with div's wyndows of new glasse, which seid chaumb is cov'd wh^o tile.

It^m on the northside the gate howse, called the dayhowse, with a stable adioynyng to the same, which be covered with straw. Theiz may welbe spared.

It^m in the said utter court is a kylvn howse and a malthowse, set together. The barn yard.

It^m a barn conteyng vij. baies, sufficientlie buylded with good tymber, and cov'd with sklate and tyle.

It^m a barn of vj. bayes sufficientlie buylded wh^o tymber and on the oon side cov'd with sklate and tyle, and the other side wh^o strawe, pte^lie in decay for lack of tylyng.

It^m a dove howse, which is worth yeir^lie. The tile, tymber, and ston of such howsez as may be spared, is worth, if it be taken down be tyme,

The closez belongyng to the said manor and pcell of the demesnes.

There be ij. litle orchards or garden placez, with a pece of ground betwene the riv^o cont. di. acr.

The dove howse close, wherein is a feir poole replenysshed with carp^e, and the close called the wat^r gate close, conteyn v. acr.

It^m a close called the conyng^e, which is well replenysshed wh^o coneyes, wh^o a fyshepole in the same, conteyneth iij. acr. and di.

It^m a close called the long close, which conteyneth ij. acr. which seyde closez lie between the water Ose on the north side, and on the south side pte on the coen feld called Tykford feld, and pte on the closys belongyng to the Lady Seyntleger, which closez be sev'all all the whole yere.

It^m a meadow close called the Castle medowe, cont. iij. acr. which is se'vall from the feist of th^e Annunciacion of our Ladie unto mi'lsom, and the comen, which close lieth betwene the town of Tykford on the south side, and the riv^o on the north side, and butt^e on the estend on the manor place, and on the westend on Tykford bridge.

The water there is sev'all to the manor from the metyng of the water of Ose and the water of the Lovent unto the p'ticou of the seid ij. wat^r, which is beneth a place in the water called Holme, and is worth yeir^lie.

There is in the seid closeys of asshe and elme lx. trees, oon with an other worth a pece and better viij.

It^m there be many other small saumplerre.

There is certain arrable land and meadow belongyng to the seid manor, which manor, wh^o the closys, conyes, dovehowse, and sev'all waterz, is in the occupacon of oon Andrew Stoke, for which he paieth yearlie v^o.

Priors of Tickford, alias Newport Pagnell.

ROBERT DE BOHUN occurs 1187, supposed to be one hundred years after the foundation of the Priory.

WALTER, 1 January 1199.

ROBERT, 1205.

BERNARD, 1210.

HUGH, resigned 1220.

WILLIAM, 1220.

JOHN DE HOLNA, or COLNA, 1232.

OLIVER, 1259.

GILBERT, 1262.

BARTHOLOMEW 1267; died 1270.

On September 11th, 1875, a fire broke out at the rear of the Newport Mills. Whilst removing a fence to save some property a fireman named Snowden, met with a most serious accident. He was in the act of striking the top rail with his hatchet when the rail was suddenly pushed down and the hatchet embedded itself in Snowden's knee. On November 15th, 1880, these mills were entirely demolished. The most extensive of the mill fires occurred on February 9th, 1899, at an expense to the brigade of £40/15/10½.

The fire, known as "The Great Fire," which is here illustrated, took place on June 8th, 1880. It was first noticed at 1.15 a.m., in the shop of Mr. Egan, then the principal tailor, of the town, by a constable who gave alarm. The house was quickly gutted, the flames spreading to Mr. Simpson's and then to Mr. Riches', a bootmaker. These three shops were a heap of ruins within the space of an hour. The Swan Hotel was badly damaged. The brigade at this fire could not save the shops but worked in such a manner to save the adjoining property which was accomplished at much risk and in such a creditable manner that the town may well be proud of their gallant captain and men. Owing to the velocity of the flames and the density of the smoke in Egan's house, the escape of Mr. Egan's son was cut off and his rescue had to be effected from the top windows of the house where he appeared crying for help. The estimated damage was £7,000. The extinguishing expenses were £99/9/10.

The following is a complete list of fires attended by the brigade, together with the expenses incurred in extinguishing the conflagrations.

1855.

Oct. 25, Messrs. Rogers' brewery £4
Dec. 23, Bryan's, Tickford st. £12/12/-

1856.

Jan. 20, W. Price's £14/12/6
April 3, Hawley's, Gt. Linford £8/8/-
Sep. 10, Plackett's, Mill street £1

1857.

July 23, Featherstonehaugh's £44
July 25, Mills', Wolverton rd. £14/13/3
Aug. 12, Nicholls's, Moulsoe £18/6/6

1858.

June 20, Heathcote's, High st. £5/10/-
July 20, Eve's Mill 14-
July 27, Powell's, Caldecote £19/16/3
Aug. 2, Scrivener's, Willen £3/16/6
Aug. 9, Lucas's, Bury Farm £8/11/-

1859.

Jan. 12, Williams's, Bradwell £3/15/6
Feb. 12, Kemp's, Black horse £11/6/-
April 23, Lucas's, Bury Farm £12/11/-

1860.

Aug. 29, Rogers's, Lathbury £10/8/-
Nov. 5, Wilkinson's, Wolverton £11/13/-

1861.

April 12, Townsend's, Ash lane £3/5/6
April 29, Warren's, Black horse £3/17/-
Nov. 17, Bull's, Abbey end £14/7/-

1862.

Mar. 16, Cleaver's, Union street 15-
May 10, Duncan's, Bradwell £3/11/10
July 19, Jackman's, Sherington £8/17/-

1863.

Nov. 15, Pearce's, Abbey end £18 7-
Nov. 17, Wilmer's, Gayhurst £12 15 6
Nov. 27, Wilmer's, Gayhurst £16/5/6
Dec. 19, Cottage at Gayhurst £1/11/-

1864.

Nov. 8, Cottage at Stoke G. £13 12 0

1865.

Jan. 25, Harvey's, High street £13
Jan. 25, Goff's, The green £10
Feb. 3, Duncan's, O. Bradwell £2 15 6

1867.

Jan. 11, Burges's, Marsh end £12 14 4
Feb. 4, Warr's, Marsh end £4/18/2
May 5, Pearce's, Willen road £5 18/2
June 27, York's, Tongham £14 15 6

1869.

Jan. 1, Pearce's, Tickford street £15/1/6
July 10, Smith's, Silver street £3
July 19, Goodman's, Kewes £12 4 0
July 30, Clode's, Great Linford £12
Nov. 19, Greaves's, N. Bradwell £12

1870.

Sep. 27, Clare's, Station road £4 4 -



THE RUINS OF THE GREAT FIRE IN THE HIGH STREET.

JUNE 8, 1880.

Sep. 29, At Pool's lane	£8/8/-	1886.	Dec. 11, J. Thickpenny's	£10/12/6
1871.			Dec. 24, Canon Bull's, Lathbury	£4/8/-
Mar. 1, Wilmer's malting, Stoke	£2/10/-		Dec. 27, Barcock's	£1/10/-
Mar. 9, J. Field's, Sherington	£17/11/5		1887.	
April 5, Coales's, S. John street	£3/5/6		Feb. 4, Sarrington's, Sherrington	
1872.			1889.	£15/17/6
June 1, John Field's, Chicheley	£4		July 19, Rogers's, Lathbury	£12/13/6
July 25, Scrivener's, Ravenston	£18/1/11		July 20, Pike's, Haversham	£13/12/6
July 27, Tandy's, Sherington	£14/5/11		Aug. 3, Selby's, Stantonbury	£25/1/6
Sep. 23, Checkley's, Hanslope	£22/1/3		Aug. 7, Brayfield's, G. Linford	£10/19/6
Nov. 19, Rogers's, Stoke G.	£6/2/6		1890.	
1874.			July 20, At Priory street	£6/15/-
June 18, Smith's, Stoke G.	£13/8/11		1892.	
Aug. 6, Wylie's, Bradwell	£13/9/4		Jan. 1, Waite's, Tickford street	£2/4/4½
1875.			Jan. 9, Wilford's, High street	12/-
Aug. 4, Castledine's, Caldecote	£9/10/6		Jan. 22, Binyon's, High street	19/6
Sep. 11, Newport Mill	£8/2/6		Feb. 23, Whitbread's, Hanslope	£18/5/-
1876.			April 4, Cannon's, Swan Hotel.	—
March 12, Wilmer's Malting, Silver street	£15/13/3		1893.	
1877.			June 29, Jellies's, Cranfield	£12/19/-
June 29, Austin's, Cranfield	£12/10/-		1894.	
Aug. 6, At Olney	£7/1/6		Feb. 23, Barnett's, North square	5/-
Nov. 5, Clare's, Station road	£5/4/3		Mar. 12, Silsby's, North square	5/-
Dec. 8, At Pagg's court	£14/2/6		Dec. 5, Millard's, Cranfield	£21/17/4½
1878.			1895.	
Jan. 3, Whitworth's Olney Mill	£22/1/5		May 1, New Inn, Bradwell	£16/7/10
Jan. 19, Watts's, Hanslope	£6/5/6		May 5, White's, tobacconist, High st	£6
Jan. 30, Masters's, High street	£22/4/4		Aug. 15, Norman's	£10/11/6
Sep. Mills's, Silver street	£14/18/9		Nov. 6, Infants' School, Union street	5/-
1879.			Nov. 7, J. Higgs's, High street	15/6
Sep. 21, Nichols, Moulsoe	£12/2/6		Dec. 18, T. Waite's, Tickford street	2/6
Oct. 24, Nichols, Moulsoe	£11/15/6		1896.	
1880.			July 6, Roberts's, N. Crawley	£14/2/-
June 8, Egan's, High street	£99/9/10		Nov. 13, Whiting's, Lathbury	£1/3/-
Sep. 6, Litchfield's Farm	£16/8/10		1897.	
Nov. 15, Newport Mills	£35/9/11		Jan. 7, Smart's, S. John street	£4/11/3
1881.			Sep. 24, Great fire, Ravenstone	£24/12/6
Jan. 18, Smith's, Stoke Goldington	£17		Dec. 23, Clark's, Silver street	6/-
July 29, Nichols's, Moulsoe	£23/19/-		1898.	
1882.			Feb. 23, Butler's, Silver street	£2/10/6
Aug. 9, Whiting's, Moulsoe	£16/11/3		April 23, Smith's, Stoke G.	£14/6/4½
Sep. 9, Fleet's, Silver street	£12/10/-		Aug. 15, Sturges's, Salford	£21/5/-
Sep. 15, Whiting's, Stoke G.	£44/7/4		Sep. 17, Inns's, Loughton	£20/2/-
Dec. 18, Harvey's, High street	£20/16/-		Sep. 18, Baxter's, Silver street	13/-
1883.			1899.	
June 8, Wilmer's, High street	£13/11/7		Jan. 23, Pettit's, High street	3/6
Sep. 3, Thompkins's, Hanslope	£24/2/10		Feb. 9, Newport Mills	£40/15/10½
1885.			Feb. 25, King's, Silver street	£1/3/-
Jan. 3, Burr's, Hanslope Park	£7/0/6		July 10, Irving's, Moulsoe	£13/17/-
April 21, Farm, etc., Stoke G.	£21/5/-		July 15, Whiting's, the Green	£36/4/-
May 16, Taylor's, Milton	£15/7/6		Aug. 20, Cotton's, High st	£16/11/10½
Sep. 27, Simco's, Hardmead	£15/13/-		Oct. 26, Anstee's, Cranfield	£15/9/-
Nov. 5, Thickpenny's	£10/17/-			

Bury Field.

This extensive area of pasture land is the recreation ground for the inhabitants who hold several ancient rights from the lord of the manor.

It is situated upon the north side of the town and has several approaches, and is bounded on the west by a lane which leads to Gayhurst known as Lake's Lane.

The earliest record we have of this noted field is that of the purchase of it for seventy years by John St. Leger and annexed to the Honor of Amphill in 1532.

In a civil war tract it states "that Sergeant Major Skippon is made master of the works" at Newport Pagnell, "and that the carpenters and pioneers are fortifying the Towne very strongly, that as the water doth compasse the towne as it were on two sides of it, so trenches from the said moate are digged, with draw bridges and sluices all which goeth forward very fast." This moat evidently went from the Ouse at the back of the Mill, to the Lovat at the rear of the Gas House, now the garden of Mr. Cowley, which was known, before being levelled as Hilly Close. There are remains of this moat still in existence, which are to be traced near to the entrance to the Field by the Brewery where the mounds are still in evidence.

Sir Samuel Luke writes, "these works ; they are so large and at this time so indefensible."

In 1623 James I., granted to Dr. Atkins, all those closes of land, meadow and pasture, in Newport and Lathbury, late parcel of the Manor of Newport, viz., Bury Close, Bury Field, Bury Meadow, the Kickles Farm, and other lands ; which came to the Crown by the dissolution of the monasteries.

Newport Pagnell Charities.

The Hospital of St. Ann has already been noticed.

By his will dated in 1730, the Rev. Lewis Atterbury, D.D., bequeathed £10 a year for teaching 20 girls at Newport Pagnell.

John Revis, a native of Newport Pagnell, and a draper and citizen of London, endowed the seven almshouses in the churchyard, with certain lands, and bequeathed at his death (which occurred in 1705) a large sum in the public funds for that and other charitable purposes. The property of the charity now consists of two houses, several parcels of land, amounting to 80 acres, and £1,810 in the public funds. According to the Commissioners' Report, the yearly income of the Charity is £164/6/- About £10 a year of it is given in bread to the poor ; the sum of 21/- per annum is given to the vicar for preaching an annual sermon, and reading over the several clauses of the testator's will ; 5/- a year to the parish clerk, and 2/6 to the sexton.

Thomas Kilpin, by his will proved in 1677, left a yearly rent charge of 40/- to twenty poor families of Newport.

Jane Goodman left £300 to the Rev. John Sharp (afterwards Archbishop of York) to be disposed of by such charitable uses as he should think fit ; and it appears that Mr. Sharp, whilst Dean of Norwich, left £80 of this money to be laid out in such manner and for such uses as the Right Hon. Daniel, Earl of Nottingham, and Roger Chapman, Esq., should think most useful. The two latter by their deed dated in

1691, directed that the £80 should be laid out in the purchase of land the rents and profits of the same to be paid to such minister's widow or widows of Newport, as the master and governor of Queen Anne's Hospital should think fit; and should there be no such widow, the money to be applied to apprenticing poor children of the town. The property of this charity is a close of 4 acres 1 rood, which lets for £8 a year.

Elizabeth Darcy, by her will proved in 1699, left two closes of pasture land in Tickford Field (for which about 7 acres of arable land has been allotted) the rents to be expended in bread, to be given to the poor. The lands let for £15 a year.

By his will dated 1766, Edward Whitton left £100 (with which were purchased £114/12/3 Old South Sea Annuities, the dividends to be distributed in bread to the poor parishioners.

James Leverett, of Witney, Oxon, by his will in 1783, left £300, the interest to be given in bread to the poor of Newport. The money has been sunk in the funds.

Martha White bequeathed 20/- a year, viz., 10/- to the vicar for preaching a sermon on Good Friday, 2/6 to the clerk, and 7/6 to fifteen poor persons who shall receive the Sacrament on that day.

The Town Lands consist of several houses and 17 acres 16 poles of land, the rents of which (about £126 a year) are expended in the repairs of the church, the bridges, highways, and in the relief of the poor.

Mark Slingsby bequeathed a rent charge of £5/4/- per annum to be given in bread to the poor. He was buried in Tickford Field.

William Underwood, by will dated in 1793 bequeathed the sum of £200, the interest to be given in bread to the poor. This charity now consists of £321 in the three-per-cent consols.

The Widows Acre consists of about three acres in Bury Meadow, the produce of which is sold every year, and the proceeds given to the poor widows of the parish. This land was given by an unknown donor for the use of poor widows.

Mrs. Higgins, who died in 1834, bequeathed £23, to be distributed annually for ever; £5, to the Minister of the Independent Chapel for the time being; and £20 to be divided amongst poor persons belonging to the Congregation, to be distributed in bread and coals, one half on Christmas Day, and the other half on New Year's Day.

The inmates of the Independent Chapel alms houses, erected and endowed by Miss Beaty in 1850, receive 5/- per week.

It is remarkable, that, within the limits of the parish, are no less than four private burial-places: the one at the Abbey; one in the portion of Tickford Field, now known as Armstrong's Folley, where Mark Slingsby was buried; another in Marsh End, in a garden that belonged to a Mr. Hooton, a portion of which had been designed by a Mr. Eaglestone as a burial ground for the Baptist Chapel; and, agreeably

to this intention, one Mary Church was buried there; Mr. Holland Eaglestone, being opposed to it, the design was abandoned, and the exact place of interment was lost until 1899, when the skull, which is in the writer's possession, and a portion of the skeleton were unearthed on, which is now, the property of Mr. Cowley. The fourth is situated in Green End, in which Dr. Renny, a celebrated physician, directed his interment, close to his own house. His grave is within a raised enclosure, in which an obelisk bears this inscription, written by himself.

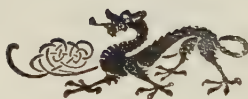
P. RENNY, M.D.

Natus XIV. Augusti MDCCXXXIV.

Denatus XIV. Februarii MDCCCV.

In 1795 the Port Field was enclosed; and in 1808 the inclosure of Tickford Field was effected.

Caldecote is a hamlet about one mile distant from the town. There seems to have been a mansion here in former times; a portion of the moat still remains.



See appendix.

LITTLE LINFORD.



LITTLE LINFORD or Linford Parva probably derived its name from a ford over a brook which anciently might have borne the name of Lin. This place, though, as to ecclesiastical rights, was originally only a chapelry to Newport Pagnell; yet, as to temporal matters, was distinct from it, and possessed by different lords or proprietors. On compiling Domesday book in 1086, it was reputed a manor, although valued less than any parish in this division and which then consisted of three separate Hundreds, now united into one, and fixed at Newport Pagnell, the principal town in the district.

The parish is bounded on the north-east, by Gayhurst and Newport Pagnell; on the south, by the river Ouse and Great Linford; on the south-west, by Haversham; and on the north-west, by Hanslope.

The village, which is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west from Newport Pagnell and 5 miles north-east from Stony Stratford, consists of the manor, known as Little Linford hall, the vicarage, a farm house, and a few cottages. It is in the jurisdiction of Newport Pagnell, and the parish contains an area of 727 acres, and a population of 76.

Manorial History of Little Linford.

The survey of this place, as it was given in to the Conqueror, in 1086 (at which time it was not included in the same division as Newport and Great Linford), was as follows: Eddeva holds Linford of the Bishop of Constans; taxed at four hides (or 400 acres). The arable is four carucates; two are in demesne, and one mill of $8/8$ value; there is a meadow or pasture for four plough-lands; and mast or wood for 100 hogs. It is worth 40/-; and was valued in Edward the Confessor's time at 60/-. Edwin, son of Borgret a thane or chief tenent of King Edward, held this manor.

Geoffery, Bishop of Constance, was a Norman of noble extraction, more skilful in arms than divinity, and knowing better how to train up soldiers than instruct his clergy. He was an eminent commander in that signal battle near Hastings, wherein Duke William became conqueror and subsequently King of England; for which great service he had no less than 280 lordships bestowed on him; he was also in divers other battles against the Danes and English, and being victor, obtained great riches.

But afterwards, rebelling against William II., he was, in 1093, deprived of his vast possessions in this kingdom. On his thus losing the king's favour divers of his manors in the county of Buckingham were bestowed on Fulk Painell, or Paganel, founder of the priory of Tickford in the parish of Newport; among which appears to have been this,

as is evident from the confirmation of the gift of the chapel of Little Linford, in 1187, to the monks of Tickford, alias Newport, by Gervase Paganel, grandson of Fulk Paganell, the founders, which Gervase, dying without male issue, this manor, with other great estates, passed in marriage with Hawise his daughter and heir to John de Somery, and his descendants, who from inheriting the manor of Dudley, in Worcestershire, assumed the title of Barons Somery of Dudley.

To this John, succeeded Ralph Somery his son and heir, who, in 1209, had livery of the lordship of Newport, with its members, which, on his death, in 1211, and on the decease of his only son William, who died in 1221, in his minority, came to his next kinsman and heir, Roger de Somery; who in 1264, procured licence to make a castle at his manor of Dudley; and in 1275 obtained a charter for a Saturday's market, and a fair for eight days in October, at his manor of Newport. He died in 1277, and was buried in the priory of Dudley, of the foundation of his family, leaving issue, two sons, Roger and John, which Roger deceasing without issue, his manor of Newport, with the advowson of Tickford Priory, and his other inheritance in these parts, descended to John his young brother, who likewise departing this life without issue December 29, 1322, his sisters, Margaret, wife of John de Sutton, then thirty-two years of age, and Joane, wife of Thomas Botetourt, then twenty-nine years of age, were found to be his next heirs. Upon a partition of their inheritance, Margaret had for her purparty, an assignation of the castle of Dudley; and Joane, the lands in Buckinghamshire assigned her; which Joane, surviving her husband, obtained in 1327, a special charter for a fair at her manor of Newport, and in 1334, free warren in all her demesne lands in Bucks; among which, this manor of Linford is enumerated. Three years after which, she died, being, as the inquisition sets forth, possessed of Newport, etc., leaving issue John Botetourt, her son and heir, who, on his last will and testament (dated on the Festival of St. John Baptist, 1382) bequeathed his body to be buried in the Abbey of Hales, Salop, before the high altar, and dying about a year afterwards, his grand-daughter Joyce, daughter of John his son (who died in his life-time), and then wife to Sir Hugh Burnell, was found to be his next heir; and her husband Sir Hugh, doing his homage, had livery of the lands of her inheritance; but she, Joyce, dying January 1st, 1406, without issue by him, Sir Adam Pestal and Joyce his wife, her aunt, and also Maud and Agnes Botetourt both nuns (one at Pollsworth, Warwick; and the other at Elneſtow, Bedford, her aunts), together with Maurice Berkeley; and Agnes and Joyce Wykes were returned to be her cousins and heirs. However notwithstanding this, her husband, Hugh Burnell, secured to himself this estate at Little Linford and Newport, etc., for his life, having, for that purpose, in his wife's lifetime, levied a fine in 1386, and departing this life November 27, 1421, was buried under a tomb of alabaster which he had set over his wife (the afore-mentioned Joyce), in the choir of Hales Abbey; being, on his death, returned possessed inter al. of Little Linford and Newport manors, and of the patronage of two chantries, founded in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, in Newport Pagnell.

That the heirs of the Botetourts again became possessed of this manor, on Hugh Burnell's death, seems probable, for, in 1111, Sir Adam Pestal and Joyce his wife (the then surviving heirs of Botetourt), levied a fine of their moiety of Linford-Parva and Newport manors, and passed the same to William de Birmingham and Joane his wife, and their heirs, which family of Birmingham, in Henry the Sixth's time conveyed their estate and interest in these manors, to James Boteler Earl of Ormonde and Wilts; on whose attainder and execution, May 1st, 1460 (on account of his adhering to the House of Lancaster), King Edward IV., bestowed this manor, by letters patent, dated January 5, 1461, on his brother, George, Duke of Clarence, who losing his favour, and recovering it again, had, in 1471, a second grant hereof, by other letters patent, dated June 18th.

But, about sixteen years afterwards, the House of Lancaster prevailing, and Henry VII., restoring Thomas Boteler, brother to the late James Boteler, Earl of Ormonde and Wilts to the title of Earl of Ormonde, he recovered this manor; and for as much as he judged, that the family of Birmingham still possessed some equity to it and the manor of Newport, he procured Fulk Birmingham, the surviving brother to Sir William Birmingham, to pass them to him in 1495; which he did by deed, dated June 27, and on the said earl's death, it came (with Newport and other manors) to his daughters and heirs, Anne, wife of James St. Leger, and Margaret wife of William Bullen (father to Thomas Bullen, who was father to Anne Bullen, mother to Queen Elizabeth); which Anne St. Leger, deceasing June 5, 1532, John St. Leger, her grandson, was returned to be her heir and had livery of Little Linford, John St. Leger, on acceptance of lands belonging to religious houses, particularly the priory of Canons Leigh, Devon, and other demesnes thereto appertaining; gave up in exchange, this his estate and manor of Little Linford, to Henry VIII., in 1544, and thus the crown becoming possessed of Little Linford, King Edward VI., bestowed the same as part of her maintenance, on his sister, the Lady Elizabeth, which princess on her accession to the crown, by letters patent, dated January 29th, 1560, granted to Richard Campion and John Thompson, this manor of Little Linford, with other lands of John St. Leger, John Thompson departing this life possessed thereof, at Husband Crawley, near Abbats Woburn, Bedfordshire, was buried in the chancel of St. James's church, at Crawley, under a sumptuous monument with this epitaph: *Hic Jacet Johannes Thompson Armiger unus Auditorum Curiae Scaccarii Regiae Majestatis; et Dorothea uxor ejus qui Johannes obiit tertio die Aprilis Anno Domini 1597, ætatis suæ 76.*

By inquisition taken at his death, April 11, it was returned, that he died possessed of this manor and the rectory of Little Linford, and also of Great Linford manor, held by knight's service of the crown, in chief; and that John, his grandson, son of Robert Thompson, his son a lunatic, was his heir, and then of the age of eight years; which John, afterwards made a knight, marrying in 1607, obtained a private Act of Parliament to jointure his wife in this manor (notwithstanding his father, Robert Thompson's lunacy), which his grandmother Dorothy

(who died, and was buried at Crawley, May 21, 1620), had been also jointured in; and leaving issue, Sir John Thompson, his eldest son and heir, he, the said Sir John Thompson, by reason, as is said, of his indifferent capacity (or perhaps mean education and debauched life), became reduced in his fortune, and was compelled to sell this manor of Little Linford; which by indenture dated December 7, 1658, he first mortgaged to William White of Caldecot, Thomas Hacket of North Crawley, and Thomas Kilpin of Newport Pagnell, as he afterwards by bargain and sale dated April 20, 1670, conveyed the fee simple to Thomas Kilpin aforesaid; who, having bought out White's and Hacket's claims, nearly re-built the manor house here, and dying April 26, 1677, left it to John and Thomas Kilpin, his sons. The elder John Kilpin, by his deed of bargain and sale dated April 2nd, 1684, released and conveyed all his rights and interest therein, to Mr. John Knapp, citizen of London; who, after the decease of Thomas Kilpin, the second brother (who died in April, 1699, rector of Great Linford, and was buried at Newport Pagnell), purchasing his, Thomas Kilpin's share, about the year 1702, of Thomas his son and heir (then of the Middle Temple) and thereby becoming possessed of the entire lordships, laid out considerable sums on the manorhouse, which he made a very commodious and handsome seat, and also decently repaired the church or chapel, in the chancel of which, he made a vault, for the interment of himself and his family.

Mr. Knapp was descended from a family of the same name, settled during many generations in Berkshire where some of the family still continues. He was twice married, by his first wife, he had eleven daughters, but no son. In 1680, he married secondly, Catharine, eldest daughter of Matthew Skynner, M.D., of Welton, Northamptonshire; eldest son of Robert Skynner, successively Bishop of Bristol, Oxford, and Worcester; and on his death, in 1710, this estate descended to his eldest son, John Knapp, from whom it has descended to the present possessor.

Ecclesiastical History of Little Linford.

That Little Linford was originally but a chapel appendant on Newport Pagnell, has already been noted; as it has also been shown, that, with its mother church of Newport, soon after the foundation of Tickford Priory, it was given thereto, so that this chapel was of very ancient foundation, and erected, in early days, as a chapel of ease to Newport, for as much as, by reason of the distance and situation, the inhabitants could not, at all times, attend divine service at Newport with convenience, although not probably, on its first erection, endowed with parochial rights, which might have been to the prejudice of Newport; but in 1291, *Ecclesia de Newport cum Capella de Linford* were joined in the taxation then made by the Pope, and also valued together; and in 1526 it was, with its mother church of Newport, bestowed on Cardinal College, Oxford, and taken away with Newport; and likewise in 1534, when the First Fruits and Tenths were, by Act of Parliament, given to the king, it was rated with Newport, and so, no doubt, had been sup-

plied by a monk, or other ecclesiastic, deputed by Tickford Convent, while that religious house subsisted. After the dissolution, or resumption of Tickford Priory with the advowson of Newport by the crown, the serving the cure has been an appointment of the lessee tenant, or impropiator, and has accordingly gone with the manor, and is in the gift of the said lord. The record of clergy is not wholly complete but we are able to give the names of the following priests :

RICHARD TAYLOR occurs in 1535 and 1546.

THOMAS TUTTON, minister in 1581.

ABRAHAM WARWICK, 1595.

RICHARD DURRANT, 1605.

WILLIAM GARNETT, 1657.

THOMAS MELLER, 1684.

JOHN COLES, about 1696.

ROBERT WOODWARD, about 1701.

ROBERT CREED, 1705 and 1714. He came in a second time, 1715; and quitted it in 1729, to

ROBERT CHAPMAN, who was minister in 1730.

GEORGE PERIAM, 1757 to 1779.

EDMUND SMITH, 1780.

WILLIAM JENKINS, 1780 to 1782.

JOHN WYNTER, 1782 to 1810.

WILLIAM SMITH, was curate in 1843.

WILLIAM IRVING, B.A., was presented by Matthew Knapp.

LEIGH D. SPENCER.

MOSES MAGOLIOUTH, D.D., LL.D., PH.D., was presented in 1877. He was one of the revisers of the Bible. He died here 25 February 1881, and was buried in the churchyard on the north side of the chancel.

HENRY JOHN HATCH, M.A., was presented in 1888, by M. G. S. Knapp. He died, and

ERNEST RICHARD SILL, was presented by M. G. S. Knapp, in 1895.

The present approximate value of the living is £188 and the real net value is £160.

The Registers date from 1757.

The vicarage is pleasantly situated about half a mile to the north-east of the church. It was erected through the munificence of the late Arthur and Matthew G. S. Knapp. These two gentlemen also gave the amount of £4,000 to the church for ever. This sum is invested and the income amounts to £128 per annum. There is also some land at Bradwell, and the income from this is £60 per annum.

A true Terrier of all y^e Land, Claims, and Properties belonging to y^e Curate, Clerk, and Chapel of the Parish of Little Linford, in y^e County of Bucks, and Diocese of Lincoln, given in at y^e Bishop's second Visitation, holden at Newport Pagnell, 25 Aug. 1749.

Little Linford is neither Rectory nor Vicarage, but a Donative, conceived exempt, formerly belonging to Tickford Abbey, in or near Newport Pagnell, now in the occupation of John Knapp, Esq. There is neither Glebe, nor Tithe, nor House belonging to it, but only three Closes, containing twenty-seven acres, more or less, lying in the Parish of Litchborough, Co. Northampton, lately purchased with £500 out of the Augmentation Office, belonging to Queen Anne's Bounty, and £100 in money, still remaining in that office, till a convenient purchase can be made. The customary allowance was, and is still, £10 per annum to y^e person officiating, paid by y^e said John Knapp; and the Clerk hath nothing but what he is pleased to assign him. The Chapel, or Oratory, is without consecrated ground for burials, but in good repair, with decent furniture suitable thereto.

In the Survey in 1534, the tithes of Linford were valued at £3; and in the Charter dated 1312, on confirmation of former grants to Tickford, it was recited, that Tickford Convent should enjoy the Chapel of Linford, with a certain messuage or grange there, with the tithes and eels of Linford Mill.

In 1712, in the assessment of the land tax at 4/- in the pound, this parish was rated at, and paid £82/14/5 to the Royal aid.

In the reign of Edward III., Little Linford is returned with Gayhurst, under the same Constable.

St. Leonard or St. Andrew's Church, Little Linford,

Is a small ancient edifice, situated on rising ground, on the verge of the grounds of the manor house, and affords a most pleasing and interesting object in perspective, from the valley towards the south. It consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel and north porch, with a turret at the west end, in which hang two bells, inscribed :

First : AVEMARIAGRACIAPLENA.

Second : IOHANNES VYLLEBY ME FIERI FECIT.

The style may be considered Gothic, with Norman details. The bell-turret appears to have been ornamented ; the porch retains the stone sediles ; and its inner door has a good pointed arch. There is a door on the south side, the arch of which is ornamented. The roofs are tiled. Between the nave and the south aisle are three pointed arches, resting upon octagonal pillars with Decorated mouldings. On the north side, the nave is divided from the aisle by two pointed arches of similar design, but resting upon a massive round pillar. At the east end of the north aisle is a good squint, or leper's window, which was again brought to light when the church underwent renovation. At the west end of the nave is a three-light window ; and the south aisle contains a square-headed three-light window. The other windows are of various shapes. The font is ancient, large, cylindrical, and lined with lead ; but the tracery work on its rim and sides is completely obliterated by a coating of plaster. The ceilings are of plaster. In the south aisle is a cinque-foiled piscina, showing it once to have been a chantry chapel. The pulpit is modern. The chancel arch is in proportion to the edifice and was re-erected by the widow of the Rev. Moses Magoliouth, a late incumbent. Fragments of the old Norman arch are to be noticed in the mouldings. The chancel is raised three steps above the nave, and the east window is of two lights, with geometrical tracery in the head, and contains stained glass inscribed to the memory of the late Moses Magoliouth. Here are several mural monuments belonging to the Knapp family. Two of them are large medallions, in white marble, beautifully executed by Westmacott, and in memory of Matthew Knapp, who died in 1782 ; and Sophia Knapp, who died in 1795. There is also an ornamented white marble shield inscribed to Matthew Lee, M.D., who married Sarah, one of the daughters of John Knapp, the purchaser of Little Linford.

Dr. Lee, who was physician to Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III., died in 1755, and was buried here in the family vault of the Knapps, together with his wife.

On a large plain brass upon the north wall of the nave is the following inscription :

To the memory of John Knapp formerly of Harwell, Berks, and of Elizabeth his wife the father and mother of John Knapp of Little Linford who was baptised at Harwell in November 1638 and who was 72 at the time of his death and not 77 as stated on his monument above ; also of his two brothers and sister mentioned in his will, viz., Francis Knapp baptised at Blewbury, Berks, in 1635. George Knapp baptised at Harwell 5th Jan^y 1641 and Amy Knapp baptised at Harwell Sept^r 1644.

In the usual place for the holy water stoup, near the north door, are the remains of a trefoil-headed piscina, which has probably been removed from its original position.

HAVERSHAM.



HAVERSHAM parish is situated in a most fertile valley and upon the north side of the river Ouse, which separates it from Wolverton and Stantonbury; on the north-east, it is bounded by Little Linford; on the north, by Hanslope; and on the west, by Castlethorpe. It is in the jurisdiction of Newport Pagnell, deanery of Newport Pagnell, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The area of the parish is 1634 acres; the population in 1891, was 224, many of whom are employed in the Wolverton carriage works.

The village is clean and neat, but scattered; the manor house, church, and parsonage, being at the western extremity of the place. It is situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east of Newport Pagnell; a like distance north-east from Stony Stratford, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Wolverton station on the London and North-Western railway, which line intersects the parish, and is carried across the Ouse by a fine viaduct consisting of six large and four small arches, having a total length of 180 yards.

The manor house, situated on the south side of the church, was partly taken down in 1792. The remaining portion is an ancient stone building, facing west, and approached by a stately avenue of trees. In its vicinity are distinct traces of a moat, and some fish ponds. There is a dove-cote in the adjoining field, which bears the date of 1665.

An old farm house, near the centre of the village, has the appearance of having been formerly an ecclesiastical edifice, but its history cannot be traced. The building is of stone, with arched doors and passages, with a mullioned window at the back, having good tracery in the head. The walls of the oldest portions of the house are about three feet in thickness, and the old timbers are very strong. During some alterations, a window similar to the before-mentioned one, of an ecclesiastical character, was discovered.

There is a small inn, at the western end of the village known as the Greyhound.

Roman coins, and other antiquities have frequently been ploughed or dug up in this parish. Amongst the latter was a bronze head of a female about four inches high.

Manorial History of Haversham.

Haversham was surveyed in the Hundred of Bonestou, as the land of William Peverell. This vill was then rated at ten hides; had sixteen bordars or villeins belonging to it; eight bordars or cottagers,

and seven ploughs or teams. It was valued or taxed, as it had been in the time of Edward the Confessor, when the Countess Guetha held it. She was, according to William of Malmesbury, widow of Godwin, the famous Earl of Kent; sister of Swayne, or Suen, King of Denmark; and mother to King Harold, who was slain in the Battle of Hastings. William Duke of Normandy, then took upon himself the government of England, as king; and soon afterwards, in partitioning the lands of his newly acquired domains, bestowed upon the same William Peverell, those lands here which the Countess Guetha had holden in the Saxon times.

William Peverell, the first of that name, is said to have been an illegitimate son of William the Conqueror, by the daughter of Ingebric, the founder of the church of St. Martin le Grand, in London, and to have had the name of Peverell from his mother's subsequent marriage with Ranulph Peverell. We are told, that the Conqueror, in the second year of his reign, granted to this William Peverell the custody of the then newly erected castle of Nottingham. However, there appears to be great doubt, whether the William Peverell to whom the Conqueror is said to have committed the castle of Nottingham, in the second year of his reign, were the son of the Conqueror; for the latter was then barely thirty-eight years of age. It is worthy of remark, too, that we find no notice taken of a castle at Nottingham in the Conqueror's survey, which was commenced fourteen years after that period; and it seems rather a curious circumstance, if true, that Matilda, the wife of the Conqueror, should, on the day of her coronation, confirm the foundation of the church of St. Martin le Grand by the father of her husband's concubine. But this William Peverell, whatever might be his age or his lineage, was certainly endowed by the Conqueror with large possessions, viz., in the Borough of Nottingham, forty-eight houses of merchants, and twelve houses of knights; in the county of Nottingham, nine manors, and many dependent villages; in the borough of Northampton, thirty-two houses; in the county of Northampton, land in forty-four towns, many of which were appurtenant to the manor of Hecham (Higham), which he then held in his demesne; and in the county of Buckingham, eight manors; in the county of Bedford, one manor, and a dependent village; in Oxford, four houses; in the county of Oxford, two towns; in the county of Leicester, five towns; and in the county of Derby, a castle in the Peak Forest, and twelve manors. This William Peverell, in the quarrel between William Rufus and his elder brother Robert, defended the castle of Helme, in Normandy, for William, but was at length obliged to surrender it; and was, it is presumed, the same person with William Peverell, who founded the priory at Lenton near Nottingham, for the souls of his lord King William, Queen Matilda his wife, their son King William, and daughter Matilda; and for the health of his own soul, of Adeline his wife, and their son William. To the priory of Lenton he gave many lands and tithes in the counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Northampton; and several of his knights were benefactors, whose benefactions William Peverell himself confirmed. The foundation was

witnessed by Gerald, archbishop of York; so that it evidently took place between the year 1103, in which Matilda, the daughter of Henry I., was born, and the year 1108, in which the archbishop, who attested it, died. The same William Peverell also founded the priory of St. James, near Northampton; the register of which priory states him to have died 5 February 1113; Adeline, his wife, 14 February 1119; and William, their son, 16 May 1100; but this is said to be contradicted by the Pipe Roll of 1140 which states, that Adeline, the mother of William Peverell of Nottingham, was pardoned £18 by the king's writ. It is possible, however, that the debt incurred by the mother might be pardoned to the son, after her decease; and there seems no other reason for noticing *his* name in the record. As to William who died in 1100, it is perfectly within the bounds of probability, that he was the son for whose soul, prayers were reserved in the foundation of Lenton; and that the William who succeeded his father, and was the son of Adeline, in 1140, was a second son of the same name.

William Peverell, son of William, was one of the temporal lords who attended Stephen in the Great Council which he held at Oxford, in the first year of his reign (1135); and in 1138, had the command of the Nottinghamshire forces in the victory obtained over the Scotch at Northallerton, in Yorkshire. Stephen being at Nottingham, confirmed, at the request of this William Peverell, Oddona his wife, and Henry their son, the donations of William Peverell, father of this William, and of William himself, to the priory of Lenton. This was probably in the king's way to the battle of Lincoln, in 1140: in which battle, Peverell, supporting the cause of Stephen, was taken prisoner with him; and the empress afterwards gave the command of Nottingham to Ralph Pagnell, who set fire to the town; but it was shortly afterwards recovered back again by Peverell's soldiers. It is further recorded of this William Peverell, that, with the consent of his heir, William Peverell the younger (so that it may be presumed that his son Henry, before named, was then dead, without issue), he restored to the priory of Lenton the churches of Hecham (Higham), and Randia (Raunds) in Northamptonshire, which had formerly been given thereto, at the request of Adeline his mother, by William his father, and which he had, for some time, unjustly detained from the priory.

William Peverell, son and heir of the former, gave the church of Bolsover, in Derbyshire, to the canons of Darley, near Derby; which donation, Avicia de Lancaster, the wife of William Peverell, with the assent of her husband, confirmed in or about the year 1149; but in 1153, this William Peverell is charged with having poisoned Ranulph Earl of Chester; for which offence, on the accession of Henry II., it is said he took refuge against punishment in a monastery, and was there shorn a monk; but, hearing of the king's march towards the place of his retirement, in the way to York, ran away, and left his property at the king's disposal. But we have decisive evidence that the confiscation of Peverell's property was in contemplation before the Earl of Chester was poisoned; for Henry II. had, by the name of Henry, Duke of the Normans, given, before his accession to the

crown, to that very Earl of Chester who is said to have been poisoned by Peverell, the whole fee of the latter, unless he could clear himself of the treason and wickedness with which he was charged ; so that the presumption is, that the administration of poison, if the story be founded in truth, was an act of revenge on the earl, for his intended acceptance of Peverell's lands ; and that the offence for which the forfeiture was incurred, was Peverell's adherence to Stephen.

Margaret, the daughter and heir of William Peverell, married William, the son and heir of Robert de Ferrars the younger, sometimes called *Comes junior de Ferrariis*. This William de Ferrars was also called Earl of Nottingham, as well as Earl of Derby ; and had in the reign of John, divers manors, which were parcel of the possessions of William Peverell.

It appears, by the *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, that this manor was in the hands of Robert de Haversham in 1175 ; and in 1208, Benedict, presumed to have been a son of Robert and Basilia his wife, sought to acquire, as against Henry de Faulkener, and Annora his wife, the fourth part of the inheritance of Ralph de Mora, father of the said Basil and Annora ; and Henry and Annora said that this estate had been the right and property of six sisters ; but their names are not expressed in the *Placita*.

Hugh de Haversham, the son of Benedict, had lands here of his father's gift in 1208 ; and in 1235, levied a fine to the use of his son, Nicholas de Haversham, who in the reign of Henry III., was termed Lord Haversham, of a knight's fee here.

In the *Claus. Rolls* of 1310, it is stated, that Nicholas de Haversham, then deceased, had holden the manor of Haversham of the king, of the honour of Peverell, and that Joane, his wife, had her reasonable dower in the same ; that he had also holden the manor of Claybrook of Arnald de Bosco, by king's service, in which manor his said wife had also her reasonable dower ; that it was holden as a stewardship of the honour of Peverell ; that the said Nicholas was the son of another Nicholas de Haversham, whose mother, Emma, held the manor of Compton, in Wiltshire, which John de Grimsted, her former husband, had settled upon her in dower (he holding the same in capite) ; and after the death of the last Nicholas de Haversham, without male issue, the lordship of Haversham passed, by the marriage of his daughters, to the families of De la Plaunche and Olney, and thus at length to the family of Lucy, by the marriage of John de Pabenham ; who, marrying Joane, grand-daughter and co-heiress of Nicholas de Haversham, left issue, James de Pabenham ; whose daughter and heir, Katherine de Pabenham, being married to Sir William Hugford, knight, had a daughter ; Alice, who became the wife of Thomas Lucy, of Charlcot, in Warwickshire ; whose son, Sir William Lucy, knight, in the time of Henry VI., by virtue of an entail, came into possession of this manor after the death of Elizabeth Lady Clinton, the last of the family of De la Plaunche, in pursuance of a fine and recovery passed in 1327.

The arms of the family of Haversham were : 1. Barry of six arg.



and az. a bend gu. *Grey.* 2. *Clinton.* 3. *Arg.* billetée S. a lion rampant of the second, crowned or. *De la Plaunche.* 4. Indented per pale or. and gu. *Birmingham.* 5. *Arg.* a chevron between the cross cross-lets fitché sinister. *Russell.*

After the death of Sir Thomas Lucy, knight, in 1640, it is reported, that his son or nephew, being in reduced circumstances, in conjunction with John Corrance, a mortgagee (said to have been a tradesman in London), conveyed, in Trin-

ity Term 1664, by fine then levied, the estate here, to Maurice Thompson, an East India merchant, whose family thus acquired the manor and advowson.

John Lord Haversham was rendered conspicuous, by having very boldly combatted, in the House of Lords, respecting the privileges of Parliament. In 1701, on the impeachment of John Lord Somers, keeper of the great seal, a conference between the two Houses having been agreed upon, Lord Haversham used some expressions at which the Commons took exceptions, when the conference was abruptly terminated, and a resolution passed in the Lower House, that his lordship's words demanded and deserved impeachment; but after explanation and further conferences, the charge was dismissed. His lordship was a great tory; but the public are indebted to him for the first printed debates in Parliament edited by the orators themselves. Sarah Duchess of Marlborough called him a "great speech maker, and the mouth of his party for extraordinary purposes of alarm." He had moved in the House of Lords, that the Princess Sophia be invited into England, as a necessary measure for preserving the protestant religion; and subsequently tried to alarm Queen Anne, with a story of the whigs having formed a plot for bringing over the Electoral Prince; but he was secretly cherished and respected by the queen; and it was affirmed that her majesty would have preferred a successor in the person of her brother, to the prospect of seeing the Electoral Prince, whatever might have been the danger to the protestant interest.

Lucy Knightley, who purchased of the co-heirs of the Thompsons, this manor and estate, was the son of Richard Knightley, descended from the ancient family of the Lucys. Richard had long previously restored to the inheritance of his ancestors, by purchase, the impropriations of Fawesley and Preston, both in Northamptonshire; so that, excepting the interval of about sixty years, whilst Haversham was in the possession of the Thompsons, and when the mail line was broken by the succession of the female heirs, this ancient estate of the Havershams, Beauchamps, and Peverells, from the time of the Norman Conquest, until the passing of an Act of Parliament to settle the estate of the Knightleys, in 1753, may be said to have descended in the same line, uninterruptedly, during more than five hundred years; but in 1764, the manor and whole parish of Haversham, with the advowson of the church, were conveyed to trustees, to hold to Alexander Small for life, with remainder to his male issue; and, 10 July 1769, by a

decretal order of the Court of Chancery, and, in 1785, by a fine in a bar of entail, by Alexander Small, senior, and Alexander Small, junior, the manors of Clifton Reynes, Hardmead, and Haversham, were finally settled.

In 1806, Alexander Small, conveyed to William Greaves and Roger Ratliffe, in moieties, these manors and lordships, subject to the payment of certain legacies of Alexander Small the younger; and by articles of partition, dated 12 April 1815, on payment of £6,000 by Roger Ratliffe, and of £15,500 by William Greaves, 360 acres of land, and a mill, were conveyed to Roger Ratliffe; and the manor of Haversham, with 503 acres of wood, and certain cottages, to William Greaves; and on the death of the latter, without issue, by family arrangements, the manor and manor house, on partition, became vested in Mr. Thomas Greaves, and remains in his representatives.

Ecclesiastical History of Haversham.

The value of this living in the first valor of Pope Nicholas iv., in 1291, was 20 marks; in another, 12 marks. It stood charged by the taxation in 1534, at £15, and was accordingly assessed. In 1754, the tithes were fixed by a special Act of Parliament, at £195 per annum; and there are nine acres of glebe, including the rectory garden. The present approximate value of the living is £215, and the net value £200 per annum.

In a terrier exhibited by John Bird, then rector, 29 September 1607, in the bishop's court, there was said to belong to this parsonage:

Imprimis. A homestyle containing 4 acres, within which was included a garden, orchard, and the parsonage house, consisting of 9 bays tyled and chambered over and disposed of into rooms. Item. A barn built with stone and thatched. Item. A stable and two bays built with timber and thatched. Item. An hay house of three bays thatched. Item. An house to lye the cattle, built with stone and thatched, consisting of six bays. Item. The parsonage close consisted of 3 acres. Item. The Mead Close, containing 3 acres. Item. The South Mead, containing 3 acres. Item. The Town Mead and Oxholmes, a acre and half. In the Wood Field, 16 acres of arable. In the Middle-field, 14 acres and an half. On the Brookfield, 21 acres and one rood.

The rectory house, which was greatly improved in 1861, is a large residence, situated a little to the east of the church, in neat and well kept grounds.

Rectors of Haversham.

WILLIAM was rector in 1221.

MICHAEL, in 1263.

JOHN DE CHISALL, instituted in 1264, on the presentation of Sir Nicholas de Haversham. He was, in 1274, made bishop of London; and afterwards, lord chancellor and lord treasurer of England. He died in 1280; but on vacating this rectory.

ANGELUS DE ROMA (DE MORA ?) the king's chamberlain, was instituted 13 July 1274, on the king's title, by reason of the custody of the lands of Sir Nicholas de Haversham. He died; and

STEPHEN DE ST. GREGORY was instituted 29 May 1276. He died; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM DE LEDCOMBE, instituted 15 July 1291, on the presentation of James de la

Plaunche. He resigned; and

WILLIAM DE OSEGODLY was instituted 4 November 1311, on the presentation of Sir John Olney, who had married the widow of De la Plaunche, lord of Haversham. JOHN DE HALFWELL succeeded about 1336. His name occurs in the Fine Rolls of

7 June 1338, as son of Sir Robert de Halliwell, knight.

RICHARD DE DONINGTON, instituted 10 February 1344, on the presentation of Philipa queen of England, by reason of the custody of the lands of William de la Plaunche, knight, deceased. At his death,

ROGER DE ASTON was instituted 5 July 1347, on the presentation of Sir William de la Plaunche, knight.

WILLIAM DE WALDEGRAVE resigned in 1350; in exchange for Fen Drayton in Cambridgeshire, with

ROBERT STURMY, 15 March 1350.

THOMAS DE IVER occurs rector in 1367.

LAWRENCE DE ALLERTHORP exchanged for Everingham rectory, in York Diocese, with

ADAM DE ALETHORP, in 1371; who soon acquitted it to

HENRY BYDALE, who occurs rector in 1375. After whom, no more are found until

JOHN DAIRBOLT, who is supposed the same with

JOHN BUTLER; who died in 1472.

JOHN BUKELY was instituted 2 Dec. 1472, on the presentation of William Lucy. He resigned; and

JOHN CLEMENT, B.A., was instituted 2 May 1513, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Lucy, knight; at his death.

RICHARD TALBOT was instituted 20 June 1541, on the presentation of William Lucy. He was deprived in 1554, on account of his marriage; and was succeeded by his kinsman, whom he was, perhaps, permitted to nominate as his successor,

ROBERT TALBOT, M.A., instituted 16 October 1554, on the presentation of Thomas Lucy, lord of Haversham. He died in 1558, prebendary of Norwich. One of this name, a learned man, and great antiquary, presumed to have been the same was born in Northamptonshire.

JOHN RAWLINSON, B.A., instituted 4 March 1558, on the same presentation. By his will, dated 14 December, 1571, he appears to have died at Haversham; and to have been buried here; being succeeded by

JOHN PRIESTMAN, instituted 1572. He resigned; and

THOMAS ASHTON was instituted in 1573, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Lucy, knight. He resigned to

JOB COCK, instituted 10 June 1577, on the same presentation

JOHN BIRD, instituted in 1586 or 1587. He died possessed of it, as appears by his will dated 27 May 1623; and is presumed to have been buried at Haversham, though there is no memorial of him.

MICHAEL BOSTOCK, M.A., succeeded in 1623. He subscribed himself rector here in 1645; and was succeeded by

JOHN NEWMAN, in 1645 or 1646.

ROBERT NEWMAN signs rector 13 April 1658; but in an old parish book Michael Bostock signs as minister until 17 April 1655.

DANIEL ROGERS, M.A., instituted 5 October 1665, on the presentation of Maurice Thompson, having quitted a vicarage in Huntingdonshire, for this rectory. He died and was buried at Haversham, 5 June 1680, without any memorial.

SAMUEL HALTON, B.D., instituted 16 September 1680, on the presentation of Sir John Thompson, bart. His successor was

THOMAS GREGORY, M.A., instituted 8 September 1706, on the presentation of Sir John Thompson, lord Haversham, whose eldest daughter Helena, born here in 1673, he had married. He died suddenly at Bedford; being also rector of Goldington in that country; and was buried here, 10 October 1713, without any memorial.

JOSIAH HART, a presbyterian, was living in 1730, bishop of Ferns, in Ireland. On his resignation,

HENRY ELLIOT, M.A., vicar of Olney, was instituted 5 February 1717, on the pre-

- sentation of Maurice Lord Haversham. He was buried here 2 December 1735.
- JOHN MACKERNES, M.A., son of Matthew Mackernes, of Stony Stratford; inducted 3 April 1736; he died on Monday 11 September 1775.
- CHARLES MOSS, M.A., inducted 10 November 1775, on the presentation of Charles Moss, D.D., lord bishop of Bath and Wells.
- WILLIAM GARDENER, presented by Alexander Small of Clifton Reynes, as also to the rectory of Hardmead. He died in 1802, and was succeeded by,
- EDWARD COOKE, M.A., and LL.B., instituted 6 April 1802, on the presentation of Thomas Kitelee, of Castlethorpe, by grant for this turn only, from Alexander Small, of Clifton Reynes. He was born at Wolverton, near Stony Stratford, 18 March 1772, being the son of Edward Cooke, an opulent yeoman. He erected, at his own expense, a Sunday school, and provided for the instruction of all the poor children in his parish. He died at his parsonage house, after a very long and severe illness, 27 February 1824; and was buried in the churchyard, under a flat stone with the initials "E. C." and date of the year, according to his own directions.
- JOHN FISHER, M.A., inducted 27 May 1824, on the presentation of Frederick Booth, of New Street, Spring Gardens, Westminster, and William and Henry Lucas, of Newport Pagnell, trustees appointed by the will of Alexander Small, deceased. He was also rector of Wavendon, and held both these livings, until he resigned Haversham in favour of
- HARRY ALEXANDER SMALL, B.C.L., in 1828, who was presented by the same patrons. He was born 14 August 1803, at Bedford, and baptised at Haversham. He was likewise instituted to the rectory of Clifton Reynes by the same trustees. He married Maria, daughter of Thomas Greaves, lord of the manor of Haversham; and had by her, one son, died in early infancy; and was, with his mother, buried in this parish church.
- ARTHUR BRUCE FRAZER, was instituted in 1856. He dying
- BENJAMIN LEGGE SYMONDS, M.A., was presented in 1889.

Haversham Church.

The church, which is dedicated to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is situated at the western extremity of the village. It is of Norman origin, and consists of the usual parts of a parish church. The tower, south porch, piers and arches of the nave are Early English; there are some good Decorated two and three-light windows; the clerestory and remaining parts are Perpendicular. Lipscomb thinks that the tower, and that part of the edifice adjacent, were built about 1360; and the chancel and eastern part were rebuilt about 1400. The tower is embattled, and is in a very unsafe state, thus necessitating the un-hanging of the three large bells which lie upon the floor of the tower. They are inscribed as follows:

First: CHANDLER MADE ME 1667.

Second: GOD SAVE OVR KING 1625 I K.

Third: GOD SAVE OVR KING 1618.

Sanctus: Uninscribed.

The roofs of the nave, aisles, and chancel are leaded; and the porch is plain, and gable-roofed. The whole edifice was restored in 1857, at an expense of nearly £700, raised partly by rate and partly by subscription in the parish.

Three pointed arches on each side divide the nave from the aisles; the wooden roofs are stained to represent oak; and the six small clerestory windows are square-headed and of two lights each. During the

restorations an evidently unfinished Norman arch was discovered, immediately above the more modern arch of the tower at the west end of the nave. This Norman arch is ornamented with apparently zig-zag mouldings on both sides. The pews are high-backed, and many of the old oak benches still remain. The pulpit is of oak and hexagonal in form, and appended to it is the iron that held or supported the ancient hour-glass, supposed to date back to the Protectorate. The eagle lectern of carved oak, was presented to the church in 1867 by a Miss Hooper. The font and the pillar that supports it are octagonal and well sculptured.

In the wall, which divides the nave from the chancel, is a canopied niche, and the upper part or top of a window with rich tracery work, now filled in. The chancel arch is pointed, and beneath it is a wood screen, surmounted by a cross. The east window is of three lights and contains stained glass to the memory of the Rev. Arthur Bruce Frazer, who was rector for thirty-three years, 1856-1889. During the repairs in 1857 the ancient ambry, and a piscina with a pointed arch, were discovered in the south wall of the chancel and laid bare. The "priests' door," on the south side, is narrow, and of good design. The chancel is furnished with neat open stalls with carved ends; and on the north side of the communion table is a Glastonbury chair. The two two-light windows on the north side of the chancel contain coloured representations, one, S. Elizabeth and S. Mary; the other, the crucifixion. There are other coloured windows as follows: Hope, Faith, and Charity, to the memory of Mary Ann King, who died 6 May 1854; S. John and S. John Baptist; S. Paul, to the memory of William Greaves, who died 20 February 1843; one inscribed "Mary hath chosen that good part." "She is not dead but sleepeth." To the memory of Mary Jane Redifer, who died 22 November 1859; "Suffer little children to come unto me." In memory of Charlotte Elizabeth Pike, who died 14 March 1859.

In the chancel, on the north side, is a beautiful monument of Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, who died in 1422, aged about 80 years. She was daughter and heir of William de la Plaunche, lord of the manor of Haversham, and married Sir John Clinton for her fourth husband; and as she caused this tomb to be prepared during her life time, and willed to be buried here, it is presumed that she was a contributor to the building or re-erection of the chancel. The fact that the arms of the Plaunche family remain in one of the windows, among some fragments of stained glass, strengthens this conjecture. The monument consists of an alabaster altar-tomb beneath a Gothic arch which ends in a finial. On the tomb is the recumbent effigy, with clasped hands, of an aged female; the head reposing on a cushion, supported by two angels, and the feet resting on a lion or other animal, couchant regardant. The dress is a long gown, with a mantle or veil. The front of the tomb has a series of six figures under trefoil headed niches. Four of these represent angels with shields, and it seems uncertain what the two centre figures are intended for; one holds a rosary. There is no inscription. Lysons' give a plate of this tomb,

In the chancel are two sepulchral brasses ; the first, which has been carefully mounted on a slab of black marble inscribed *Restauratu* *mdccclxxxix*, is placed on the south wall to the east of the organ chamber, to the memory of Alicia Payn.



*Hic iacet Alicia Payn uxor Thome Payn
Armigr que obiit in die Commemoracois aiam.
Anno dni M^occcc^oxxbij^o Cjusaic piciet ds Amens*

Alicia Payn is presumed to have been a relation of Lady Clinton ; and, on that account, to have been buried near her.

The second lies upon a large blue flag-stone, and is to the memory of John Maunsell, as illustrated below.

The two shields, at the top of the stone are the arms of Maunsell, viz., a fesse charged with a mullet between three manches. This John Maunsell lived at the manor house in 1598, and is supposed to have been the steward or principal tenant of the manor. He was rated for the pastures of Haversham as appears by an ancient rate.

At the north-east corner of this blue flag-stone is a similar one, robbed of its brasses, which probably commemorated some of the Salisburys, who lived at Haversham in the time of Henry VIII., and were buried in the church.

At the east end of the south aisle is a piscina, which shows that it was a chantry chapel. Beneath is the burial vault of the lords of Haversham manor. The east window of this aisle is square-headed, and of three lights, and contains the remnants of ancient stained glass, already alluded to, which had been carefully collected and preserved by the Rev. Arthur Bruce Frazer. Here lie buried Frances, wife of the first Lord Haversham, daughter of Arthur Annesley, Earl of Anglesey, who died in 1745 ; and other members of the Thompson family. There are some mural tablets to the Greaves family. There is, in this chapel, a very old oak chest, strongly bound with iron.

The registers date from 1665, for the baptisms ; marriages, 1685 ; and burials, 1670.



HERI RESTETH THE BODY OF JOHN MAYNSELL GENT
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 25TH OF JANVARYE
1605 WHEN HE HAD LIVED LXVI YEERES FOWER
MONETHS AND FIVE DAYES WHOSE CHRISTIAN LIFE
AND GODLY END GOD GRAVNT VSALL TO FOLLOW

In a book of accounts of the surveyors of the highways, is the following remarkable entry :

Dec. : y^e : 26 : 1737. Wee do macke an a Greement in the Parish of Hauersham that Every man shall a Gree that John Wepster and Mathew Teagell shall Lay down the Boacks in the Field to the best of there Nolige and they shall be Sorne to the same, and Laying the penelty of fue pounds to any man that shall Sortyfie the same to the Ouerseers of the poor of Hauersham.

Wee hose names are under Riten *detest* the same.

JN^o BUSBY.
THO LINE.

Another entry, dated 20 April 1742, runs as follows :

We whose names are under written do oblige and engage ourselves severally to the following Agreement, viz. That every Person shall from henceforth Pay all his own Expenses at all and every Town, Vestry, or Meeting on Parish Affairs, at any of the Publick Ale-Houses, Excepting only at y^e Easter Vestry, when, by present consent, we do allow the sum of Five Shillings to be spent at the Public charge of y^e Parish, & to be placed to y^e Over-seer of y^e Poor's Box. In witness to which agreement, we have hereunto set our hands the year and day written.

CASTLETHORPE.

THE parish derives its name from the ancient castle of the barony of Hanslope which stood here. It was included with Hanslope at the time of the Norman survey and later became a chapelry to that place, but in modern times it became, in secular matters, a distinct parish. It is bounded on the north, by Hanslope; on the south, by the river Ouse and Wolverton; on the east, by Haversham; and on the west, by the river Towe, that here joins the Ouse, and Northamptonshire. It is in the petty sessional division of Newport Pagnell; also union, county court, and rural deanery of Newport Pagnell; archdeaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford. The area is 1372 acres; the soil is chiefly of rich loamy clay, and there is an abundance of limestone. The population in 1891, was, 441; a great many finding employment at the London and North-Western carriage works, at Wolverton. The parish is intersected by the above company's line. The village is neat and compact, and lies about 3 miles north, from Stony Stratford; 3 miles north-east, from Wolverton; and $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles west, from Newport Pagnell.

There is a neat Wesleyan chapel, built of red brick. The board schools are near the west end of the village. The only hostelry is known as the "Carrington Arms."

Castlethorpe Castle.

The site of the castle of Hanslope, as it was anciently called, is now partly occupied by the church. Traces of a deep moat are still distinctly visible, as well as some of the fish ponds. From the site of the ruin of the donjon keep, now known as "Castle Hill," a good prospect is obtained.

The ancient castle stood at the western end of the village, and was the seat of the Mauduits; its site exhibits traces of very extensive buildings. About 1215, Lord Mauduit held it against King John, in his wars with the barons; but it was taken and demolished by that monarch's general, Foulkes, Fawkes, or Falk de Brent. Lord Mauduit returning to his allegiance, repossessed this manor. On the death of his descendant, William Mauduit, earl of Warwick, his estates devolved, by his sister, and heir, to William Beauchamp, who, in 1291, had the king's license to embattle his manor house of Hanslope. On the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, his estate was granted in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, about that time created duke of Norfolk; but that nobleman being attainted very soon afterwards, this manor passed, entail male, to Edward, duke of York. The duke being killed at the battle of Agincourt, and having no issue, this estate, as

part of Hanslope, reverted to the crown; and was subsequently granted to different branches of the royal family. Before her accession to the throne, it formed part of the revenue of the Princess Elizabeth. In 1663, Charles II. granted Hanslope and Castlethorpe in fee to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, third son of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, baronet, of Thornton. He had been a colonel in the Parliamentary army, a justice of the Common Pleas, and one of Cromwell's commissioners of the great seal. He died in 1671, aged 78 years, and was buried at Castlethorpe. Peter Tyrell, his youngest son, was created a baronet in 1665, and died in 1711. Sir Thomas Tyrrell, of Castlethorpe, the second baronet, died without male issue in 1714, but leaving two daughters, Christobello and Harriet. The first mentioned lady had three husbands, the first being John Knapp, of Cumner, Berkshire; the next, John Pigott, of Doddershall, and lord of the manor of Grendon Underwood, in the Hundreds of Ashendon, in this county; and lastly to Richard Fiennes, Lord Say and Sele. She was the last of the ancient family of Tyrrells, in this county, and died and was buried at Grendon Underwood, in 1789, aged 94 years. The younger daughter was married to James Lamb, of Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, and had issue an only daughter, married to Captain Mead, R.N. She was buried in the vault of the Fiennes, at Grendon Underwood.

The estate of the Tyrrells, here, under an Act of Parliament, for the payment of two co-heiresses, descendants of the family, was sold between the years 1724 and 1730, to Sarah, Dowager Duchess of Marlborough; under the provisions of whose will it was conveyed to her grandson, John Spencer, of Althorpe, and descended in the same manner as Dunton, to the Earls Spencer. The manor of Castlethorpe, with that of Hanslope, is now the property of Edward Hanslope Watts, who with Lord Carrington, and the Corporation of the City of Lincoln, are the chief land owners. At the inclosure, under an Act passed in 1793, the latter body had an allotment of land assigned to them, as impropiators of the great tithes.

The old mansion house of the Tyrrells stands near the west end of the church, but the principal portion of it was taken down about the commencement of the nineteenth century. In front of the remains are several very old chestnut trees.

The Church of SS. Simon and Jude, Castlethorpe.

The dedication feast is kept on the Sunday after the festival of SS. Simon and Jude; though in old wills this is called "the church of Our Lady of Castlethorpe."

The church is built on an eminence, a little eastward of the keep, as appears from the height of the bank or mount still remaining close to the church-yard. It comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and a tower at the west end. The last appendage was originally 71 feet high; but the rain having been suffered to destroy the timbers of the roof, it fell down in 1729; and being meanly rebuilt, was lowered about 30 feet, and only the second of three bells, which it contained, was put up again. The large bell, weighing 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs., which

was broken, was sold together with the third, to Fenny Stratford, to defray the expenses of rebuilding the tower. The roofs of the nave and aisles are covered with lead; but the roof of the chancel is modern and slated. The principal entrance is through the tower at the west end. The piers and arches of the nave are very Early English, hardly removed from Norman. Two of these arches on each side, divide the nave from the aisles; those of the south side are supported by an octagonal pillar, and those on the north rest upon a massive round pillar, with foliage mouldings. Three Decorated windows of three lights, one being in the east end, light the south aisle; and two modern sash windows have been inserted in the north aisle. There are three windows on the south side of the clerestory of the nave; none on the north side. The oak pulpit is square, and apparently of the time of James I.; the seats are open, and of deal. The roofs throughout are ceiled with plaster. At the east end of the north aisle still remain the steps of the rood loft, in a good state of preservation. On the south side of the chancel is a sedile of two stalls under semi-circular arches and a piscina. The font is very large, and octagonal, having two sculptured human heads annexed to two of its western angles. The chancel arch is pointed, and the chancel itself is spacious. The east window is a good Decorated one of three lights, containing a beautiful memorial to the memory of Caroline Walpole, who died 22 February 1899.

Within the communion rails are three flat slabs inscribed to members of the Tyrrell family; and on the north side is a stately monument to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, who died in 1671, and Bridget, his wife. It consists of an altar-tomb of veined marble on which are two black marble pillars, with white bases and capitals, supporting a richly ornamented pediment, with frieze and cornice, surmounted by an urn, and shields of arms. On a slab of jet covering the altar-tomb, between the pillars, are the effigies, in full size, of Sir Thomas, habited as a judge, reclining on a mat and cushions, his head resting on the lap of a female, sitting in a melancholy position. This monument, which was erected by widow Dame Bridget Tyrrell, bears an inscription recording the gift to the poor of Castlethorpe of £10 per annum. There are also memorials to the Kitelee family.

Castlethorpe Charity.

The money left by the Tyrrells was used for the purchase of 18 acres 3 roods and 25 poles of land which lets for about £36 per annum. This amount being proportioned out as follows: half for the repair of the nave of the church; £1 to the officiating minister, for preaching an "In memoriam" sermon on the 8th of March; the residue divided among the poor of the parish. Lady Tyrrell left £80 to the poor. A moiety of this sum has been expended in redeeming the land tax upon the poor's land,

WOLVERTON.



WOLVERTON parish contains 2,260 acres, which area has been divided into three ecclesiastical parishes, viz., Holy Trinity, with an area of 1,530 acres; St. George the Martyr, formed 26 May 1846, with an area of 400 acres, and St. Mary the Virgin, formed 29 November 1870, with an area of 330 acres.

The entire parish is bounded on the north, by the river Ouse, Castlethorpe, and Haversham; on the east, by Old Bradwell; on the south east, by Bradwell Abbey; on the south west, by Stony Stratford; and on the north-west, again by the river Ouse, and Northamptonshire.

The parish is in the same county court district, rural deanery, arch-deaconry, and diocese as the preceeding parishes; the petty sessional district of Stony Stratford; and the union of Potterspury.

In this parish, running from north to south, the Grand Junction Canal has been carried across the valley, at the distance of half a mile eastward from Holy Trinity church. This part of the canal has an aqueduct, made subsequently to the completion of the Grand Junction. The mode of crossing the valley was by a series of locks down into it and up again on the opposite side. This arrangement caused such an enormous waste of water, practically exhausting the supply, and thus proving highly injurious to the proprietors. The present aqueduct was opened on 21 January 1811, and succeeded three large aqueduct arches. The length of the iron work is 101 feet, the bridge being wide enough for two boats to pass each other; and a towing-path of iron is attached to it. About half a mile from the aqueduct is the junction of the main canal with a branch through Old Stratford, in Northamptonshire, to Buckingham.

The village of Old Wolverton (Holy Trinity), spelled *Wluerintone*, in that venerable record, the Domesday Book, is 1 mile east-north-east from Stony Stratford, and 5 miles south from Newport Pagnell. Wolverton (St. George's), New Wolverton, or Wolverton Station, is 2 miles from Stony Stratford, and 4 from Newport Pagnell. Wolverton St. Mary is the south-western portion of the town of Stony Stratford, and is situated 6 miles south-west from Newport Pagnell, and 7 miles north-west from Fenny Stratford.

The road from New Wolverton to Stony Stratford was constructed in the year 1844.

The Barony of Wolverton.

The Barony of Wolverton, at the compiling of Domesday Book, appears to have consisted of Wolverton, Little Loughton, Stoke Hammond,

Padbury, Thornborough, part of Lamport in Stowe, Choulsbury, Helpesthorp in Drayton Beauchamp, Aston Sandford, the Vache and Isenhampsted Chenies, both of which last mentioned places were then reckoned part of Chalfont St. Giles; the remainder of Chalfont St. Giles, and one half of Ellesborough, all in this county; to which Simpson was added at the forfeiture of the Bishop of Constance, in the reign of William Rufus; and about the same period Wykhamon and Maidwell and part of Thenford, Cold Ashby, and West Haddon, in Northamptonshire. These lordships and manors were altogether estimated at fifteen knight's fees.

Wolverton was the manor of Mannon Briton, or Maigno Brito, who held it in his own hands in Sigelai Hundred, taxed at twenty hides. there were twenty carucates of land. In the demesne nine hides; and there were five carucates; and thirty-two villeins with eight bordars had ten carucates to which five more might have been added. There were ten servants, and two mills of thirty-two shillings and eightpence rent. Nine carucates of pasture. Altogether estimated at £20; when he first held it, £15; and in King Edward's time, £20. Three thanes had holden this manor; one Godwin, a man of Earl Harold had ten hides; another Tori, King Edward's huscarle, had seven hides and a half; and the third, Aluric, a man of Queen Edith, had two hides and a half. All these could sell their land at pleasure.

Manno of Brittany, to whom this barony was given by the Conqueror, fixed his residence at Wolverton, made it the head of his barony, and here erected his castle, the hill or keep of which yet remains at the east end of the church-yard, and the moat was entirely filled up, only when the new church (Holy Trinity) was built in 1809-10. Of his manors, Manno retained in his own hands, Stoke Hammond, Padbury, Chalfont with its appendages, and Ellesborough, besides Wolverton; the remainder were granted out to feudatory tenants. At his death, he was succeeded by his son, Manfelin; but at what precise period he died, is not ascertained. Manfelin was strongly tinctured with the religious enthusiasm of the age, and made large gifts to religious houses; and he founded a small priory of Benedictines, near his castle of Wolverton, at the place now called Bradwell Abbey, an extra parochial district adjoining and on the south-east of the parish of Wolverton. Manfelin was dead before 1161, for in that year, Hamon his son, is recorded in the Pipe Rolls, to have paid scutage at the Exchequer. And in 1166, upon the assessment of the aid then levied for marrying the king's daughter, this Hamon certified that he had fifteen knight's fees, and that they were all held by his tenants, except those upon his demesne at Wolverton.

Before this time, therefore, Stoke Hammond, Padbury, Chalfont, the Vache, Chenies, and Ellesborough, had been granted out to Manfelin's followers. The church of Choulsbury had been given to the Knights' Templars; and the churches of Wolverton, Padbury, Stoke Hammond and Chalfont, were soon after given to the priory of Bradwell; and the church of Thornborough to the priory of Luffield, Bedford.

Residing near the forest, Hamon was over-bold in trespassing there,

for which, in 1176, he paid £100; but shortly after he died; and in 1185, Hamon, his son, gave 200 marks for livery of his lands. This Hamon was paternally allied to the Earls Warren, and nephew to William Mauduit, baron of Hanslope, by his mother. Being 22 years of age, in 1186, and in ward, he was married by the king's appointment. In 1195, with Robert de Bullers, he gave 300 marks for the purparties of William and Robert Trusbut, and the same year attended the king, Richard 1., in his expedition into Normandy.

Hamon did not survive longer than the end of this reign; and was succeeded by a son of the same name; for in the first scutage of Richard 1., in the second year of his reign (1190), the Red Book of the Exchequer records, that Hamon the son of Hamon, son of Manfelin, discharged his scutage there; as he also did in the 6th and 8th years of the same reign; but in those years, he is called only Hamon, the son of Hamon. In 1211 he was dead, for, in that year, the same book states, William, the son of Hamon, to have paid the scutage then recorded. He had married Agatha Trusbut, but died without issue, and was succeeded by his next brother William.

In 1234, this William, the son of Hamon, is also recorded in the Testa de Nevil, to have answered for the scutage of the fifteen knight's fees of his barony; and this is the last time the scutage for the barony of Wolverton seems to have been collectively paid into the Exchequer.

William, the son of Hamon, survived till 1246, when he also died without issue. Alan the son of Hamon, his next brother and heir compounded for his relief at £100, the following year; and consequently, had livery of his lands.

Alan, also died the same year, possessed of Wolverton, Padbury, and Chalfont St. Giles, leaving John his son and heir, then of the age of thirty years and upwards, who paid his homage and had livery of his father's lands. He was called John, the son of Alan de Wolverton. When he died is not discovered; but probably about 1271; leaving Isabella his widow, who afterwards married Ralph de Arderne, and died in 1283. He left a son, John, called Sir John de Wolverton; who appears to have had issue only one son, who was usually distinguished by the appellation of John de Wolverton, junior. Sir John de Wolverton died in 1342, as appears by an inquisition taken in that year, wherein it is stated that he was possessed of the barony of Wolverton, held by the service of castle guard, at the castle of Northampton.

A licence of feoffment had been granted in 1313, by which he was enabled to make a settlement of the manors of Padbury and Chalfont St. Giles, which was probably the period of the first marriage of John de Wolverton, junior; for it is expressed to be in favour of him and Joan, his wife; and in pursuance of this licence the manors of Padbury and Chalfont St. Giles appear to have been settled upon the female issue of this marriage, whenever there should be a failure of male issue of the said John; by virtue whereof, these manors were separated from the possession of the barony and shared among the four daughters of this marriage, on the death of his only son, Ralph, in 1352.

John de Wolverton, junior, married a second wife, also named Joan, and died in 1349, possessed of Chalfont St. Giles, Padbury, Wolverton, and Wyke Hamon, in Northamptonshire, which descended to Ralph, his son and heir, by the second marriage, then in his minority.

Ralph survived his father only two years, for he died in 1351, without issue, possessed of the manor and barony of Wolverton, and of the various knight's fees held of the same; leaving Margery the wife of John de Hunte of Fenny Stratford, his eldest sister of the whole blood, and a younger sister named Elizabeth, afterwards married to William de Cogenho, his next heirs. At his death Wolverton went to his two sisters of the whole blood; and Chalfont St. Giles and Padbury were divided between the four other sisters, by the first marriage, according to the limitations of the settlement made thereupon.

From Margaret le Hunte who was afterwards married to a second husband, named Richard Imworth, her moiety of the manor of Wolverton descended to Joan her daughter, who had become the wife of John Longueville, of Little Billing, in Northamptonshire; but it does not appear to have retained its rank of a barony after the death of Ralph, the son of John de Wolverton, junior. In consequence of this marriage, the Longuevilles quitted Little Billing, and fixed their chief residence at Wolverton. This John de Longueville resided here; and served the office of sheriff for the counties of Bucks and Beds, in 1395. He was born in 1351, and survived till 1439, when this manor of Wolverton descended to George Longueville, his eldest son who had been returned one of the knights for the county of Bucks, in his father's life-time, in the last parliament of Henry v.; and he served the office of high sheriff for the county of Northampton, in 1427, residing then, probably at Little Billing. Soon after the death of his father, he succeeded to the other moiety of Wolverton, on the death of Alexander de Chesney, the grand-son of Elizabeth de Wolverton, without issue. He died in 1457, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Thomas de la Roche, two sons, George and Richard.

George, the elder son succeeded him at Wolverton, but died unmarried, about 1500. He directed by his will, dated in 1499, to be buried in the Austin Friars, at London. At his death, Richard, his brother, succeeded to the estate, and died before the end of the reign of Henry VII.

He was succeeded by his son, Sir John Longueville, knight, who served the office of sheriff in 1508. Of this Sir John Longueville, Leland takes notice in his Itinerary, and says, that he lived to be 103 years old. He was buried at Wolverton, 22 November 1537. He had two illegitimate sons, Thomas and Arthur; the former died without issue, in 1536, about a year before his father; and Arthur, the younger, succeeded to the estate of Wolverton.

This Arthur Longueville acquired the estate of Bradwell Abbey, by an exchange with the crown, for his portion of Stoke Bruern, in Northamptonshire; at Bradwell Abbey he was succeeded by Arthur, his second son. And so it was again separated from Wolverton; of which he died possessed in the reign of Elizabeth,

Henry Longueville, his eldest son, succeeded him at Wolverton; he served the office of sheriff of Bucks in 1592; was knighted by King James at Salden, when he came on a visit to Sir John Fortescue, in 1603; and was again sheriff in 1606. He died at Wolverton in 1617, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Cotton, knight, of Bedhampton, in Hants, a very numerous issue.

He was succeeded by Henry his eldest son and heir, who was knighted; but who survived his father only four years. He was buried at Wolverton, 17 May 1621; having married Katherine, sister to the Lord Falkland, and had issue by her, Sir Edward Longueville, who succeeded him in this estate.

Sir Edward Longueville was created a knight baronet of Nova Scotia, by Charles I., in 1638. He died and was buried at Wolverton, 6 August 1661. In the latter part of the life of this baronet, about 1654, Wolverton was inclosed, chiefly under the direction of his wife, Dame Margaret Longueville, the daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, of Stowe; and that she did not hesitate at many oppressive acts, in order to accomplish her purpose.

Sir Thomas Longueville, the eldest son of Sir Edward, succeeded, on his father's death, to the estate at Wolverton. He died in consequence of a fall from his horse, in 1685; and was buried at Wolverton.

His successor in the baronetcy and this estate at Wolverton, was his only son, Sir Edward Longueville; who served the office of sheriff of Bucks in 1688; but was a young man of extravagant habits, and dissipated his property. He came to the same unhappy death as his father, for he was thrown from his horse, at a horse race at Bicester, on 28 August 1718; and was buried at Fretwell, without any memorial. He died unmarried, and the baronetcy went to a younger branch of the family, resident in Wales. This manor with its appendages here and at Stony Stratford, were sold in 1713, to Dr. John Radcliffe, the celebrated physician, for upwards of £40,000.

John Radcliffe, M.D., died possessed of this manor, which, with the advowson of the living, together with other large estates, he bequeathed by his last will and testament, to certain trustees, to augment and maintain the foundation of University College, and other establishments at Oxford.

Ecclesiastical History of Old Wolverton.

The advowson and right of presentation had been vested in the priors of Bradwell, as will be seen by the list of vicars, until the reign of Henry VIII., when they granted to Arthur Longueville, who was then lord of the manor.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth, the rectory of Wolverton was granted by patent, dated 27 March 1568, to Anthony Rotsey, for a term of years, at the annual rent of twenty shillings, and which grant was afterwards renewed to the same party. In 1583, Michael Coles, held the impropriation; and the grant was subsequently demised to the said Michael Coles, Mary his wife, and Humphrey his son, for their lives. At their death, the queen in consideration of a great sum

of money paid her by Sir John Spencer, knight, of London, granted to him the reversion of the premises *habend.* for ever, except the advowson of the vicarage.

From the family of Spencer, this impropriation came, by marriage of the heiress of Spencer, to the Comptons, as Moulsoe manor had done; and in 1735, it was part of the demesnes of the Right Honourable James Compton, earl of Northampton, who leased the rectorial tithes of this parish to the family of Longueville, and they were holden under that lease for some years, until Lord Northampton sold the rent charge, about 1738, to Brazenose College, Oxford.

The valor of the vicarage, in 1534, was returned to be £10/3/8, and the clear value £32/10/0; but, in 1759, a noble addition was made by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe, who had purchased the estate, by augmenting the vicarage about £2,000, with lands ordered to be purchased for that intent, and settled on it for ever for the benefit of the vicar, who before had but a slender provision.

A terrier dated 24 February 1639, describes the vicarage: House as comprising 4 bays of building, 1 barn to the same belonging, being 2 bays, with a yard and a orchard, and a small grass plot to the same adjoining, containing 1 acre. Item, Tythe hay in all the inclosures in Wolverton, and in the Park Meadow, Nash Meadow, the Holme, y^e Great Holme, and the Holmes belonging to the two mills, excepting only the tythe of three acres in the Great Holme, which belongs to Bradwell. Item, Tythe milk all the year, and tythe wool and lamb, with all other small tythes usually accruing. N.B. Terriers Aylesbury, 1607 and 1675. Robert Ladbroke, vicar.

The present value of the living is £56 per annum.

Vicars of Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton.

ALAN was vicar about 1240.

THOMAS, died 1260; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM BULLINGHAM, who was presented in 1260, by the prior and convent of Bradwell. At his death,

ROBERT DE BUCKINGHAM was presented 8 November 1274.

RALPH DE WOLVERTON died 1298, and was succeeded by

JOHN DE ELY, 11 October 1298. He resigned; when

RICHARD ORDWY was presented by Simon, prior of Bradwell, 5 January 1334. He was succeeded by

HENRY, who died in 1361. His successor was

ADAM VINCENTE DE CALDECOTE, who was presented 15 October 1361. He died; and was succeeded by

JOHN WAYTE, who was instituted 20 February 1370. He exchanged for Tolleshurst Militis, in Essex, with

JOHN SYWARD, 5 September 1371; who exchanged for Bow Brickhill, with

JOHN NAPPER, 13 November 1390. He exchanged for Bradwell vicarage, with

RICHARD DEY, 4 December 1394, who also exchanged for Berkesbye vicarage, with

THOMAS WYCHEWODE, 3 September 1404. He exchanged for Steppingly, in Bedfordshire, with

ROBERT GORNESTHORPE, 27 October 1405; who exchanged for Stokerye, with

JOHN KING, 20 April 1406. He exchanged for Alderminster vicarage, in Worcester diocese, with

ROBERT BENGROVE, 1 March 1411; who exchanged for Pepulton, in the same diocese, with

WILLIAM DALBY, 8 June 1417. He died in 1431; and was succeeded by THOMAS LEGELEY, who was presented by the convent of Bradwell, 31 December 1431.

RICHARD STACEY succeeded about 1435, and in 1438, on exchange for Wingrave vicarage, with

SIMON FITZ RALPH, 8 October 1438. He was succeeded by NICHOLAS PARDON, who quitted it for Stow Langport; and was on his resignation, succeeded by

THOMAS SPENCER, who was presented 29 October 1447.

JOHN DAVENTRE succeeded. He resigned in 1452; and was succeeded by NICHOLAS PARDON, instituted a second time, 14 August 1452. On his decease, WILLIAM CAMYLE was presented 21 May 1457.

JOHN HANCOCK was presented 26 June 1477, by Bradwell priory. He died; and WILLIAM HEROSE was colated by the Bishop of Lincoln, on a lapse, and instituted 25 November 1517.

WILLIAM HEYCOCK succeeded. He occurs vicar in 1526; died in 1543; and willed to be buried in the chancel.

JOHN RAWLINSON was instituted 25 January 1543, on the presentation of Arthur Longueville. He was afterwards rector of Woughton and Haversham.

GEORGE TURNER succeeded, about 1546. He died; and

RALPH LANGFORD was presented by Henry Longueville. He occurs vicar in 1587. On his cession,

ROBERT REYNOLDS was instituted 9 October 1596, on the presentation of George Asbrey. He died; and

THOMAS PEN succeeded 1631, but vacated it the same year.

ROBERT LADBROKE succeeded, and resigned in 1645.

GILBERT NEWTON, B.A., was presented 18 June 1645, by Sir Ed. Longueville, bart. ROBERT BOSTOCK, B.A., was dispossessed of the vicarage 11 March 1660-1, into which he had intruded, for calling the parliament "precious rogues."

ROBERT DUNCUMBE succeeded in 1661. He took out the king's title to it 27 February 1664; and, dying, was succeeded by

ALEXANDER FEATHERSTONE, M.A., who was presented by Sir Thomas Longueville, and instituted 2 July 1673. He died, and was buried here 2 August 1684; being also prebendary of Colewich, in Litchfield diocese, 6 September 1660.

JOSEPH DOGGET, M.A., of University college, Oxford, was instituted 7 November 1684, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Longueville, bart.

EDWARD CHERSEY, instituted 10 July 1686, being presented by Sir Edward Longueville, bart. He vacated this vicarage by taking the living of Earsham, in Norfolk, to which he was presented by William Longueville, of the Inner Temple, on the gift of the Duke of Norfolk, in 1702. On his resignation,

THOMAS EVANS was presented 22 December 1702, by Sir Thomas Hales, bart., of Bexley, in Kent. He died; and was succeeded by

EDMUND GREEN, who was instituted 8 October 1720. At his death,

EDWARD SMITH, M.A., was instituted 6 August 1754, on the presentation of the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe. He was also vicar of Stantonbury; and was succeeded in this living by

SAMUEL HARE, LL.B., inducted 29 May 1782, on the same presentation.

HENRY READE QUARTLEY, M.A., who on 4 March 1832, was also inducted to the living of Stantonbury.

WILLIAM PITT TREVELYAN was instituted in 1856. He was also rector of Calverton.

JOHN WOOD, M.A., was instituted in 1871. He was rural dean of Buckingham. He was a most gifted and eloquent preacher, and was thoroughly beloved by all who knew him.

T. E. ROOKE was instituted in 1895 under the presentation of the trustees of the Radcliffe estate.

Holy Trinity Church, Old Wolverton.

This is a handsome cruciform structure, re-erected by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe. The fabric was completed in 1815. "Few villages in

England," writes Dr. Lipscombe, "can boast of so splendid and costly a church as Wolverton." It is in the Norman style with a stately embattled tower at the west end, in which are a clock and six bells, inscribed:

JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1820.

The chief entrance is through a deeply recessed arch with the chevron or zig-zag moulding; above it, in the west side, is an arcade of small interesting arches; in the upper stage are four windows; and at the base of the embrazures or battlement, is a cornice of sculptured heads, foliage, &c. The east end, and the ends of the transepts are finish gable-wise and with large cone-shaded pinnacles.

The roof of the nave is of plaster, in compartments, stencilled in colours; the pulpit is of Bath stone and highly illuminated; the benches are of oak, and open; the east window is circular and divided in many compartments, the centre one being filled with stained glass exhibiting the crucifixion; the ceiling is of plaster, but resembles a stone groined roof; the font is of Bath stone, and rests upon a clustered column.

In 1877 the interior of the church was entirely decorated in polychrome by Mr. Daniel Bell. At the same time the communion table was enlarged and a reredos of oak was erected from designs by Mr. J. Swinfen Harris, of Stony Stratford.

On the north side, against the wall, is a very large white marble monument, an altar table on which is a recumbent effigy of Sir Thomas Longueville, the first baronet, who died in 1685, aged 54 years. The monument bears a long inscription in Latin.

Near the vestry door, in the church-yard, is an ancient gravestone, which has had a plate of brass with an inscription on it (long since torn off), and no traces remain to ascertain to whom it belonged; but as one Thomas Hunte willed, in 1544, to be buried in the church here, it was probably laid over him. On the west side of the yard are three curiously decorated head stones. Unfortunately the ravages of time have obliterated the inscriptions upon these antiquities so that it is impossible to give any history of the people to whose memory they are erected. The best shows signs of having been highly coloured. It bears emblems of various incidents of the life of Christ; there is the cross mounted by two ladders; two spears, one being surmounted with a sponge, hammer and pincers, a wreath of thorns, a pelican feeding its young, upon the right arm of the cross is a crowing cock, whilst over the left arm is suspended a jug and chalice, from the arms of the cross hangs a wreath of corn and grapes. The second stone depicts a horse shoe and shoeing implements. The third has Father Time in a sitting posture, with book of life in hand, and sythe over shoulder; hour-glasses decorate the sides of the inscription.

The earliest entries in the register appear to commence with November 1535, baptisms and burials being intermixed, as they have occurred; the whole have been kept with great accuracy and regularity, except during the interregnum, when no entries whatever were made.

The vicarage house is an excellent, spacious, and substantial building, erected in 1729, chiefly out of the materials of the old manor house; and the approach to it and the church is exceedingly rural and pretty.

Wolverton St. George.

In 1838 when the London & Birmingham Railway was opened, neither New Wolverton nor New Bradwell existed. The station having been made in Wolverton parish there soon sprang into existence several houses around it, the first were grouped as follows: Bury Street, Creed Street, Ledsam Street, Young Street, Glyn Square, each named after the officials of the railway; and Gas Street through its contiguity to the gas works that were erected for the works that were necessary at the then very important railway station, where "all trains" were notified to stop at Wolverton ten minutes for refreshments. The present station is the third, the first stood where now stands the Haversham shed over looking the park, and was approached from what is now termed the "old road," by an incline up the side of "Hell's Kitchen," the present park. The second station was to the south-east of the present one and near to the Institute. On the site where stood, a little over half a century ago, North's Cottages, there is one of the finest factories in England, surrounded by a large and prosperous town, with its handsome places of worship, Institute, imposing shops, market house, nicely laid out recreation ground, and well appointed baths. The Government Registered envelopes are both made and printed at the large factory belonging to Messrs. McCorquodale, the London & North-Western printers.

Ecclesiastical History of Wolverton St. Georges.

In the year 1841, the bishop of the Lincoln diocese appointed the Rev. George Weight to be resident chaplain in this rising settlement, and licensed a large room for divine service, which had been fitted up in an appropriate manner by the railway company. This apartment was found to be too small for the purpose, and preparations were soon made for erecting a church. To meet the expense of this, the company voted £1,000, and another sum of £1,000 was collected by them. These two sums were paid into the hands of the Radcliffe trustees, and they not only engaged to defray the remaining expense, but also allotted two acres of ground for the church, church-yard, and parsonage. The church and parsonage were built at a cost of about £5,000. The first stone of the church was laid on 12 July 1843, and the edifice was consecrated on Whit Tuesday, 28 May, in the year following. By an Order in Council, dated 19 May 1846, a new ecclesiastical district was allotted to it.

The Living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Radcliffe trustees, who allow £100 per annum towards the stipend of the minister. The present approximate value of the Living per annum is £418, the real nett value £261.

St. George the Martyr's Church, Wolverton Station,

Is a very neat stucture in the Early English style. It consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel. At the north-east corner of the nave is a small tower, in the eastern side of which, under a recessed arch, is the principal entrance. The tower contains one bell, and finishes with an octagonal spire, covered with slate. The roofs are tiled. The walls are of native stone, with Derbyshire stone dressings. The floors are boarded, and seated with neat open benches; there is a large gallery at the west end; the pulpit and reading-desk are of carved wood; and the font, which is circular and sculptured, is placed in the centre of the nave. The nave is lighted by sixteen lancet windows, arranged in pairs. The chancel arch is pointed, and rests upon circular pillars with moulded capitals. The east window, of three lights, is copied from one in Tintern Abbey, and is ornamented with stained glass, representing the Nativity, the Last Supper, and the Crucifixion. The reredos, above the communion-table, is of stone, grained to resemble marble. A handsome service of communion-plate was presented to the church by G. C. Glyn, Esq., banker, London, late chairman of the Railway Company.

Incumbents of S. George's, Wolverton.

GEORGE WEIGHT, was licensed resident chaplain in 1841.

FRANCIS WILLIAM HARNETT, M.A., was presented in 1860. At his death, he was succeeded by his son,

W. L. HARNETT, who was instituted in 1894.

Wolverton London & North Western Works.

The original factory still stands, and is known as the brake and turning shops. This was the only shop in 1840, and about 400 hands were employed. Shortly after this date the London & Birmingham Railway amalgamated with other companies and assumed the name of the London & North-Western Railway Company. Through this amalgamation Wolverton began to increase, because it was found necessary to largely extend the works and by 1860, there were about 2,000 employed by the company. In the years 1864-5, the carriage works from Saltley, were brought here in place of the locomotive works which were removed to Crewe, though a small portion of the latter works were carried on until 1887. The carriage works still increase both in size and number of employés.

Amongst the many and important trains kept standing here are those of Her Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and His Grace the Duke of Sutherland.

The company, who show great thought for their employés built for their use a spacious dining room, facing the Stony Stratford road and near the entrance gates to the works. It will seat nearly a thousand and with each seat there is a coffee can, cup, and cooking tin supplied. A kitchen is connected, and a cook engaged to cook or warm up the men's meals free of charge.

A disastrous fire occurred at the works on 25 November 1882, when a great many of the workmen lost their tools.

The Recreation Park, Wolverton.

The park is situated between the old and new lines, and is enclosed at the top by the Grand Junction Canal, and at the bottom by a wall and a keeper's lodge. The ground, which is of about seven acres in extent is well laid out in lawns, borders, and athletic course, making a great contrast to its former state as "Hell's Kitchen." This, now pleasant and secluded spot, was the gift to the town from the Railway Company on 3 August 1885, when the company granted their employes



a day's holiday, paying them for the same, provided them with a dinner and the school children a tea. The opening day of the park was a gala day for the town. Wolverton was so decorated that it was one mass of flags and bunting; the decorations were entrusted to Messrs. J. Defries & Son, of Houndsditch, London. In the afternoon there was a good programme of sports carried out. In the evening Mr. Thomas Baker, of Victoria Park, London, gave a good pyrotechnic display, after which the festivities concluded by a ball.

To celebrate this event a medal was struck for the occasion and one was presented to each child above the age of five years.

Hell's Kitchen, Wolverton.

This was a very low inn near the first railway station. The licensing laws at that time not being very stringent, there were enacted by the navvies, scenes of terrible debauchery, making it really a hell upon earth, hence its name, Hell's Kitchen. Hugh Miller's description of this inn gives a good idea of the character of its frequenters.

He says: "I had intended passing the night in the inn at Wolverton, and then walking on in the morning to Olney, a distance of nine miles; but when I came to the inn, I found it all ablaze with light and commotion. Candles glanced in every window; and a thorough Babel



MAFEKING REJOICINGS AT WOLVERTON.

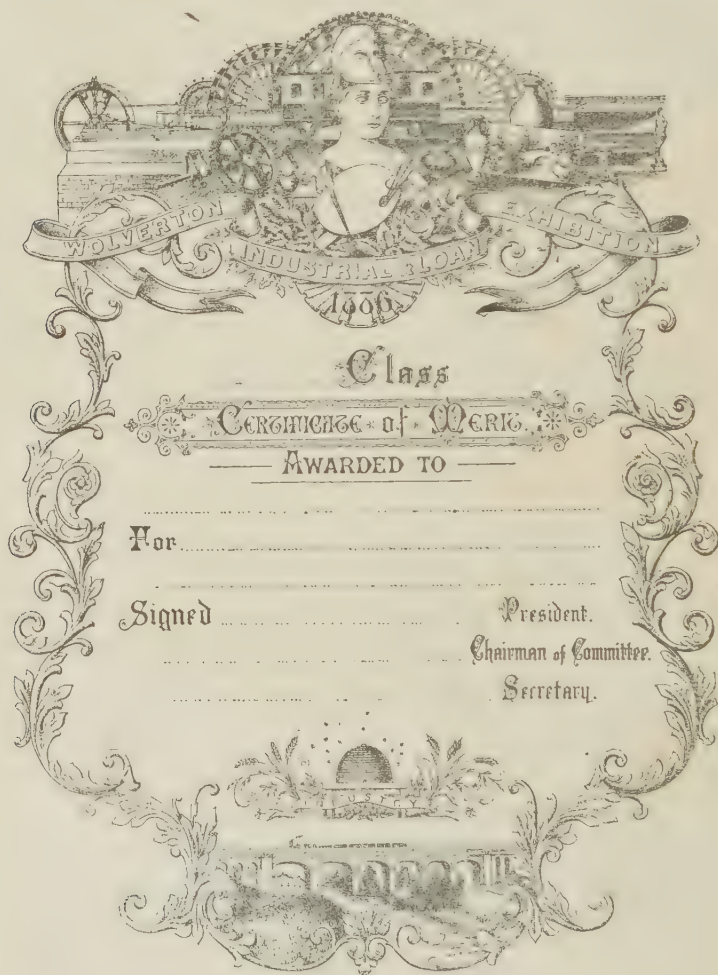
See appendix.

of sound—singing, quarrelling, bell-ringing, thumping, stamping, and the clatter of mugs and glasses—issued from every apartment. I turned away from the door, and met under the lee of the fence, which screened him from observation, a rural policeman. ‘What is all this about?’ I asked. ‘Do you not know?’ was the reply. ‘No; I am quite a stranger here.’ ‘Ah, there are many strangers here. But do you not know?’ ‘I have no idea whatever’ I reiterated; ‘I am on my way to Olney, and had intended spending the night here, but would prefer walking on, to passing it in such a house as that.’ ‘Oh, beg pardon; I thought you had been one of themselves; Bendigo of Nottingham has challenged Caunt of London to fight for the championship. The battle comes on to-morrow, somewhere hereabouts; and we have got all the blackguards in England, south and north, let loose upon us. If you walk on to Newport Pagnell—just four miles—you will no doubt get a bed; but the way is lonely, and there have already been several robberies.’ Hugh Miller said he should take his chance of that, but he had not gone far before he was accosted by two men, who evidently meant plunder, but finding him a determined customer, they sheered off in double quick time, and it was well they did, for he says, “I had luckily a brace of loaded pistols about me, and had at the moment a trigger under each fore-finger.”

The Science and Art Institute, Wolverton S. Georges.

The Science and Art Institute is erected on the north side of the church. It was founded 1 June 1840, as the result of a suggestion by Edward Bury, locomotive superintendent. At a meeting held on that date it was resolved that a society be formed, to be called “The London and Birmingham Railway Institution for moral and intellectual improvement at the Wolverton Station.” On 15 June a room was opened, which had been prepared by order of the chairman of the railway company. A committee was formed and donations to the amount of £29/12/- were received. In 1841, one hundred volumes were purchased, besides those presented by some of the directors. In 1843 evening classes were arranged, and lectures were delivered on various subjects. In 1847 Mr. J. E. McConnell, was invited to become patron of the institution, and at a meeting in that year he stated that the directors were favourable to building a mechanic’s institute at Wolverton. About the year 1860, classes in connection with the Science and Art Department were commenced in the Creed-street schoolroom by the late Rev. F. W. Harnett and others. In 1861 Miss Burdett Coutts made to the institution a handsome present of well bound books. At a meeting held in April 1861, it was stated that the directors had generously granted a piece of land on which to erect the proposed institute. In 1862 the funds amounted to £1,201/9/1½; the Science and Art Department granted £500 towards the building, and the name was then changed to “The Wolverton Science and Art Institute.” The projected building was estimated to cost £3,000. The foundation stone was laid by His Grace the Duke of Sutherland. The festivities

of the day commenced with divine service in the church, when the Lord Bishop (Wilberforce) of Oxford preached an appropriate sermon to a very crowded congregation, who had gone to church in procession, headed by a number of Foresters from the neighbourhood, and two



bands of music. At the termination of the service another procession was formed, and the company repaired to the site of the new building where the "laying" of the stone was performed by his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, who addressed the assemblage in brief but effective

terms. The stone being deposited in its bed with the usual formalities, the bishop delivered a prayer and pronounced a blessing, and the whole assembled multitude struck up the Old Hundredth Psalm in solemn chorus. Deposited in a cavity of the stone, was a box containing some coins of the realm, and a parchment writing, stating that the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Sutherland in the presence of the Bishop of Oxford, and that the building was erected for the instruction of the workmen employed in the engine establishment of the London & North-Western Railway.

The proceedings terminated by a monster tea party and athletic sports.

Soon after this the affairs were in rather a precarious state, owing to insufficient funds to complete the work, and nothing beyond laying the foundation was proceeded with.

In November 1862, the plans were referred back to the architect, Mr. Street, to reduce the building and its cost to meet the financial circumstances. In May 1863, the revised plans were submitted and approved, and on Whit Monday, 16 May 1864, the building was opened. The fact that the building was not of such proportion as at first intended may be explained by noting that the condition under which the Science and Art Department made their grant, was that, when that was received the building should be entirely free from debt. Additions have been made to the main building from time to time as the funds would permit. In 1886, a most successful industrial exhibition was held in the Institute, when the successful competitors were awarded prizes or certificates of merit.

The Wolverton Rifle Volunteers.

The volunteer force is represented here by No. 6 Company of the First Bucks, and consists almost exclusively of employes of the London & North-Western Railway Company. It was formed in 1877. The company has always borne a very high character for general smartness and discipline. There is a strong and efficient band, and an ambulance squad.

At the close of the year 1899, this company came to the fore by their response to the call to arms.

On Monday, 1 January 1900, a meeting was convened in the large hall of the Institute, when Major Gilbey was present, and said he was extremely pleased with the excellent body of Wolverton and Buckingham men who had come forward for duty with the army.

The following are the names of the officers and men who volunteered for active service in South Africa, and others had given their names in for garrison duty :

Major H. M. Williams, commanding detachment.

Barker, L. R.	Campbell, J. H.	Clarke, W. J.	Dixon, A. W.
Barley, A. W.	Carroll, F. H.	Cope, J. E.	Dolling, A. J.
Beard, H. R.	Carvell, E.	Cowley, W. G., Sgt.	Dormer, J. R.
Beecon, T. N.	Carvell, J.	Croft, Sgt.-Instr.	Eady, T., Cpl.
Brownutt, G., Cpl.	Chapman, J. E.	Davies, W. J.	Edwards, W. E.

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE

Felts, A. G.	Harding, J. H.	Lewis, E. T., Sgt.	Spong, A. H.
Fessey, J. B., Bugler.	Hawkins, Lieut.	Little, B.	Teagle, C., Bugler.
French, H. T.	Hawkins, W.	Marsh, H. E.	Tole, J.
Gibbons, A.	Hellenburgh, F., Bglr.	Meakins, E.	Tooley, A. J.
Giltrow, P. W.	Hellenburgh, W., „	Meakins, W.	Tyson, E. J.
Giltrow, T. H.	Hikins, S.	North, E.	Waite, T. F.
Godfrey, T.	Hill, G. H.	Olney, W.	Webb, E.
Gould, J. *	Hill, W. R., Bugler.	Pittam, W.	Whitestone, D. G.
Grant, H. P.	Hopkins, J. T.	Powell, F.	Whitmee, E. P.
Green, A. G.	Humphreys, F.	Price, E. O., Sgt.	Williams, J. H., Cpl.
Gregory, T.	Jackson, R., L-Cpl.	Richardson, A.	Wilmin, T. W.
Grimsdick, J. D.	Jakeman, O.	Roberts, E.	Winstanley, F. T.
Harbell, A., L-Cpl.	Jenks, A. R.	Scott, T. E., Sergt.	Woodford, W.
Harbell, J.	Jones, G. E.	Sewell, A. M.	Wootton, A. W.
Harbell, J. S.	Jones, R. W., Cpl.	Shakeshaft, T. B.	Wootton, S.
Harding, C. W.	Kirby, C., Lce-Cpl.	Shackleford, W. T.	Wright, W. F.
Harding, J. E.			

On no previous occasion has the large hall of the Science and Art Institute presented such a display of loyalty, such a scene of enthusiasm, or such an array of volunteer lights, as was witnessed at the dinner given on Tuesday evening, 6 February 1900, to recognise the departure of those selected to serve with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in South Africa. The hall had been decorated with flags, bunting, mottoes, names of the places where the first Bucks had encamped, festoons of artificial flowers, etc. At the back of the platform was the encouraging and appropriate motto, "Good-bye and good luck to the gentlemen in khaki ordered south." Over the portico was a model maxim gun.

The detachment and draft paraded on the Market Square at 12.45 on the following morning under the command of Major Williams and Lieutenant Hawkins. Prior to leaving the square each member was presented with a packet of tobacco. Without ceremony the company, headed by the band, marched via Radcliffe street, and Stratford, road to the station, their fellow workmen cheering them en route.

Wolverton Charity.

Catherine Featherstone, by will dated in 1711, left to the vicarage of Holy Trinity, £100, and £50 to the poor of the parish, the two sums to be secured on land; the profits of the first-named sum to be received by the vicar; and that of the £50 to be given to the poor "that should come constantly to prayers while in health to do so; the clerk of the parish to have a fifth part amongst the poor." The property of the charity consists of 4 acres, 1 rood and 15 poles, in Whaddon parish.

Wolverton St. Mary.

This parish being more closely connected with Stony Stratford, an account of it will be found in the history of that place.

* Died at Sterkstroom, of dysentery, 29 April 1900.

STANTONBURY.



S. PETER'S CHURCH, STANTONBURY.

THIS parish was always known as Stanton Barry, gaining its appellative name from the family of Barré. In the Conqueror's record it is simply designated as *Stantone*. The village had been entirely depopulated, in 1736

only four houses remaining. There are still these few domiciles with a population of 29 according to the census of 1891. The church of this by-gone village is still in existence and it contains the finest Norman arch in the Hundreds of Newport Pagnell.

The parish contains 806 acres. It is bounded on the north, by the river Ouse and Haversham; on the east, by Great Linford; and on the south and west, by Bradwell. The Grand Junction Canal passes through this parish, out of Wolverton into Great Linford.

As the present populated district known as Stantonbury is in the parish of Bradwell, it is described under the heading of the latter.

The Manorial History of Stantonbury.

The manor had been holden before the conquest, by Bisi, a thane of King Edward the Confessor; but the Conqueror bestowed it, on Milo Crispin, who married the heiress of Walingford.

The survey describes the land of Milo Crispin, as holden under him by Ralph, and taxed at five hides. There were five carucates and a half of land. In the demesne two; and seven villeins with three bordars had three carucates; and to these, half of another might have been added. There were four servants, and one mill of ten shilling and eight pence rent; fifty eels; and four carucates of pasture. It was altogether valued at £6; when he first held it, at one hundred shillings; in the time of King Edward at £6.

Ralph's descendants had the surname of Barré; and from them, this manor obtained its appellative name of Barry, in addition to Stanton, by the latter of which it is recorded in Domesday Book.

This family continued to hold it of the several Lords of the Honour of Walingford, till the house of Barry terminated in a female heir, in the reign of Edward III.

In 1324 King Edward II., granted to Richard Blundell, the custody of two parts of the lands and tenements of Thomas Barry, deceased in Stanton-Barry, to hold the same until the heir attained his legal age, rendering for the same £10 per annum; and reserving to the king, his knight's fees, &c.

William Barry (the last male heir of the family, held it at the death of Edward the Black Prince, in 1376; but the time of his death is not ascertained; however, he left an only daughter and heir, Petronilla, who brought this manor in marriage to Hugh Boyeton, of Yardley Gobion, and he passed the estate by fine, to Sir William Thirning, in 1397.

Browne Willis states, that Sir William Thirning sold it to John Favar, in 1408, but for this, he quotes no authority; and it soon afterwards escheated to the crown, and was granted to Sir William Vaux.

It is possible, that this account may be correct, for Stanton-Barry is mentioned in the Letters Patent of Edward IV., as the lands of Sir William Vaux, attainted, but the grant by which he obtained it from Henry VI., is not discovered; and it is yet more probable, that Sir William Thirning, knight, sold this manor to Sir William Vaux, father of the attainted Sir William, in 1410, at the same time he conveyed to him Lewknor's manor, in Little Harrowden.

Whether the Sir William Vaux, who lost all his inheritance for his steady adherence to Henry VI., obtained this manor by descent from his father, or by grant from the crown, certain it is, that by his attainder, it became vested in Edward IV.; for, in the fourth year of his reign, that king granted this manor in fee, by Letters Patent, to Ralph Hastings, but the grant was resumed by Parliament in the same year.

A new grant of Stanton Barry was made in 1467, to Richard Fowler and his male heirs; and he died possessed thereof in the 17th of the same reign.

By an inquisition taken in 1526, it was returned, that Nicholas Lord Vaux died 1524, leaving Thomas his son, aged fourteen, possessed of the manor of Stanton Barry, held of the honour of Walingford.

Another inquisition sets forth, that Sir John Temple, knight, who married as his second wife, Frances Alston, widow, died 23 September 1632, possessed of the manor and rectory of Stanton Barry, held of the manor of East Greenwich, by £1/0/8 rent. And that Peter Temple, his son, was nineteen years of age.

Willis says, that this manor was granted, in 1478, to Carathine Vaux, for life. After the attainder of Sir William Vaux, in 1483, Richard III., granted it, with 100 acres of land and the appurtenances, by Letters Patent, to Sir Ralph Hastings; but Vaux's attainder being reversed by Henry VII., his grandson, Thomas Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who was possessed of it in 1536, demised it to Edward Ashfield, at a rent of £4, 1/6 per annum. In the next year, 1536, an Act of Parliament was passed for the assurance of Stanton Barry Manor to Henry VIII.; and his son, Edward VI., in 1547, on his coming to the crown, granted it to Sir Thomas Cawarden, bowbearer to his father, together with all the lands and tenements demised to Ashfield by Thomas Vaux, Lord

Harrowden ; notwithstanding this, as the Lord Vaux had demised it to Edmund Ashfield, as aforesaid, the said Ashfield obtained it in fee ; and died possessed thereof in 1577 ; and was buried at Shenley Mansel ; and, leaving only daughters, it came in marriage, with Avice his second daughter, to Edmund Lee ; who had issue by her, a daughter, named Dorothy ; and she marrying Sir John Temple, brought it to his family ; and he died possessed thereof, 23 September 1632. About thirty-five years afterwards, it was conveyed to the family of Wittewrong, by Sir John Temple ; in whose possession it continued, until Sir John Wittewrong, about 1727, sold the manor to Sarah Duchess of Marlborough : who in 1735, settled it on John Spencer, her grandson ; and which after her death, descended to the Earl Spencer.

Sir John Wittewrong had been created a baronet 2 May 1662 ; and having made a purchase of this estate, he built a mansion house, and settled it on his eldest son John Wittewrong.

Sir John Wittewrong died in 1693 ; and was succeeded by his son, John, the second baronet, who died in 1697 ; who was succeeded by his son, Sir John Wittewrong, the third baronet ; he, on May 1721, having barbarously murdered one Joseph Griffith, a mountebank, at the Saracen's Head, in Newport Pagnell, fled beyond seas ; but came over again, after some years, into England, got into the fleet prison, and there died of the wounds which he had received, by being sadly beaten, in a drunken quarrel, about 28 March 1743. This mountebank, Joseph Griffith, has been sometimes styled a surgeon at Charlton, or Chartham, or Chatham, in Kent.

After the decease of this unfortunate gentleman, the title came to his brother, William Wittewrong, who was living in 1754. He appears to have been baptised at Stanton Barry 19 December 1697 ; was made Governor of the Poor Knights at Windsor in August 1760 ; and died at Lambeth 20 January 1761, as is supposed, without lawful issue.

Ecclesiastical History of Stantonbury.

The patronage of the church was annexed to the See of Lincoln, by grant from the Prior of Bradwell and his Convent, dated in 1259, to the Bishop of Lincoln, and his successors. The original deed is in the Treasury of the Bishop of Lincoln ; and a copy, in a MS. volume of index to the Lincoln Library, in the Archives at Cambridge.

The valor of the vicarage, in 1534, was only £7 ; the clear yearly value certified at £30.

It is not ascertained by whom this advowson was originally given to the Monastery of Goring, by which it was possessed at a very early period ; but it is conjectured to have been bestowed upon that foundation by Brian Fitz Count, who held the Honour and Lordship of Walingford about 1158 ; and after the ordination of the vicarage, the patronage of the latter always attended the possession of the manor, which was purchased by Sir Edmund Ashfield in 1556, Sir Edmund having resided at Stanton Barry in 1551 ; and in 1557, the advowson was granted by Queen Mary to the Bishop of Lincoln ; but being

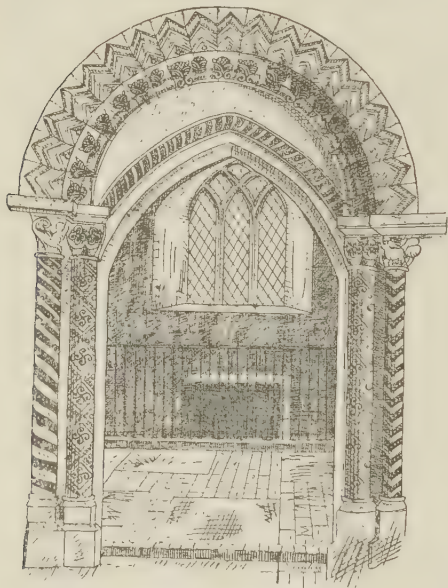
afterwards resumed by Elizabeth, on her accession, that Queen, in the 20th year of her reign, granted to Sir Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, the rectory with all tithes, &c., formerly devised to William Hyde, as late belonging to the Monastery of Goring.

The Church of St. Peter, Stantonbury.

What is now spoken of as the *old* church is, externally, a small unpretentious edifice, in what has become a beautifully retired situation. The building consists of a nave and chancel, the latter being lower than the former, and of the same length. On the north side, as appears by two arches, now closed, was an aisle in former times. These arches

have the zig-zag moulding. The south doorway has a similar moulding; and the sedile on the east side of the porch is partly formed by a broken grave stone, having an antique cross on it. There is no tower or bell turret, but under the roof, above the west beam, within the church, hangs a small sanctus bell. There is every evidence that a tower or bell-turret formerly existed.

Lipscomb states that "the whole fabric has been much contracted, and much of the west end of the church yard taken into the court of the mansion house." The nave of the church is lighted by the west window, and one on the south side. The pulpit is of oak, octagonal in form, with panelled sides, and slightly carved. The ancient font is large and



THE NORMAN CHANCEL ARCH,
STANTON BARRY.

octangular, with trefoil-headed arches on its sides. In the south wall of the nave, and near the pulpit, is a piscina and a canopied niche, thus showing that there was a chantry here. The chancel arch is the best specimen of Norman structure and decoration we have in the Newport Hundreds (see illustration). It is probably unique. Lipscomb's description of it is "it is semi-circular and recessed, having rows of embossed sculpture and zig-zag variously ornamented, resting on pillars with chevrons and volutes or fillets, each dissimilar from another; the capitals being carved, and decorated with various figures and mouldings." The chancel is lighted by three windows, the east being

of three lights. In the south wall is the piscina of the high altar, in good preservation, and close to it is the recessed arch of the sedilia. In the north wall of the chancel are two singularly formed recesses, or ambries. The communion rails are slight and antique.

In the pavement within the communion rails are three sepulchral slabs covering the remains of, and inscribed to "Dame Elianor Temple, relict of Sir Peter Temple, Knt.," and "eldest daughter and heir of Sir Tymothy Tyrill of Oakley, in this county, Knt.," who died in 1671 in her 57th year; "Charles Tyrill fourth and youngest son of Sir Timothy Tyrill of Oakeley," who died in 1694, in the 60th year of his age; and "Sir John Temple, Knt., and Dame Dorothy, his first wife (one of the daughters and heyres of Edmund Lea, Esq., late lord of this manor.)" She departed this life in 1625, and he in 1632. A black marble slab is inscribed to John Shipton, Esq., who died in 1778, in his 63rd year; and Mary his widow, deceased in 1806, aged 80. The latter was buried in Christ Church, Surrey. Another covers the grave of their son and daughter, who died in 1758. There are likewise memorials of the following persons: Thomas Harrison, Esq., of Wolverton, who died in 1809, aged 75; Catherine his wife, who died in 1829, aged 84; Harriet Congreve their daughter, who died in 1829, aged 46; Martha, another daughter, who died in 1806, aged 32; Henrietta Ann Congreve, wife of John Freer Congreve, Esq., of Stony Stratford, and one of the daughters of the before mentioned Thomas Harrison, Esq. (died in 1849, aged 46); and Harriet Catherine Congreve, only daughter of the said John Freer, who departed this life in 1831, aged 13 years. In the floor of the nave are the gravestones of the Rev. William Jenkins, who died in 1783, aged 34 years; and Mrs. Ellen Jenkins, his wife, and daughter of the above named John Shipton, Esq., who died the day she completed her 25th year, in 1781. The bodies of Sir John Wittewrong, the first baronet, Sir John, the second baronet, and several members of the family of the latter, were buried in this church, but no inscription whatever is placed over any member of the family except one in the middle of the chancel, inscribed: Here lyeth the body, of Clare Wittewronge, wife of John Wittewronge, Esq., who died the 12th day of October 1669, and with her rests the Bodys of her two infant sons.

The mother with two babes doth silent lye
Within this tomb of immortality;
But when the birth-day comes, the mother then
Shall rise a virgin, and her children men.

The old church is still occasionally used.

The registers of this parish commence with the year 1658.

Vicars of Stanton Barry.

NICHOLAS DE ESTON was presented in 1225, by the prior and convent of Goring. ROBERT DE BEKENESFIELD was collated by the bishop, in 1230, the convent of Goring not appointing a vicar.

GERVASE died vicar in 1297; and was succeeded by HENRY DE BISHOPSTONE, presented 12 October, 1297.

HENRY DE COLLENE resigned in 1318; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM DE WORMINGTON, presented 1 September, 1318. At his death,
 WILLIAM GIFFARD was presented 7 January 1345.
 WALTER DE BURCHESTER, presented 4 July 1349; and resigning it, was succeeded
 by
 HENRY DE WYTHINTON, instituted 5 November 1353; and on his cession,
 JOHN DE WOUURN was presented 3 February 1358. On his cession,
 THOMAS DE PEKELESWORTH was presented 3 August, 1360.
 WILLIAM JACOB, presented by the bishop, on lapse, 5 March, 1363. He resigned
 it, on an exchange with
 WILLIAM DE BEVERACHE, 15 February 1379. He resigned; and was succeeded by
 JOHN DESBURGH DE WELDON, presented 14 December, 1383. He exchanged for
 Draughton, in Northamptonshire, with
 ROBERT WADELYN, 16 October, 1385, who resigned to
 HENRY DESBURGH, presented 13 December, 1385; who exchanged for Cogenhoe
 Chantry, with
 JOHN YOUNGE, 29 August, 1386. He exchanged it for Warpesgrove rectory, in
 Oxfordshire, with
 JOHN AUNELL, 8 October, 1397. He exchanged for Weldon Pinkeney, in North-
 amptonshire, with
 ROBERT BOWCHER, alias MARSHALL, 18 April, 1402. He exchanged for Rugge,
 in Herts, with
 HENRY LAVENTON, 13 April, 1405. On his cession,
 THOMAS GEOFFREY was presented 21 February, 1411; and exchanged for Purleigh,
 in Essex, with
 RICHARD ATTE WATER, 21 March 1412. He exchanged it for Gaddesden rectory,
 in Herts, with
 JOHN KIRKEBY, 27 May 1419.
 JOHN INGE succeeded 21 May 1425.
 ROBERT MARSHALL, died vicar in 1452; and was succeeded by
 WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, 18 October, 1452. He died in 1458; and was succeeded
 by
 THOMAS WEBBE, presented 16 August, 1458, as was
 JOHN BARNABY, presented 28 February, 1465.
 WILLIAM NEWELL resigned in 1492. He was succeeded by
 THOMAS GORGE, or GEORGE, presented 9 November, 1492. He resigned; and
 THOMAS HYNCELYFF was presented 12 January, 1493. At his death,
 WILLIAM FOSTER was instituted in 1522, on the presentation of the prior and con-
 vent of Goring; as were all his predecessors, by their title. He died vicar of
 Bradwell; and was buried there 2 June, 1551.
 WILLIAM FORMAN was presented by William Hyde, 24 October, 1551. At his
 death.
 JAMES SHAW was presented in 1560. He was also vicar of Bradwell, but was
 turned out of both livings for being a Roman Catholic.
 JOHN YORKE was presented 15 January 1570, by Avise Lee.
 JOHN WHELOCK, presented in 1598.
 PETER FATEAT, presented in 1624, in which year he was a witness in the case of
 Lord Viscount Purbeck, who lived at Stanton Barry.
 RICHARD ERELL, or CARELL, alias EARL, instituted in 1630, on the presentation
 of Sir John Temple. He was vicar of Stowe, where he died, and was buried.
 JOSEPH ALLEN, presented 21 November 1635, by Thomas Temple.
 SAMUEL MACCARNESS, instituted 24 November 1641, on the presentation of Peter
 Temple. He lived at Great Linford when he served this cure; and died at
 Stony Stratford, where he was buried 6 November 1662. He was great-grand-
 father of Mr. Maccarness, rector of Haversham.
 JOHN LOCKWOOD was returned in 1650, to serve the cure, valued at £20.
 WILLIAM PEARSE was presented 6 May 1663, by Sir John Wittewrong, knight, and
 in 1667, was made rector of Simpson.
 SAMUEL FREEMAN, presented 18 January 1667, by the same patron. He was vicar

of Olney. On his cession,

JOHN MASON, M.A., was presented 21 October 1668, by the same patron. He quitted for Water Stratford rectory, "and was a great enthusiast." He went off about 1647, into Yorkshire, his life being endangered on account of his loyalty to King Charles, and he narrowly escaped being murdered by the rebels.

JOHN HOWARD, M.A., presented 8 April 1675, by the same patron. He quitted it for Newport Pagnell. On his cession,

JOHN HAMMAT, B.A., was presented 17 March 1678, by the same patron; and left it for Emmington, in Oxfordshire. On his resignation,

ROBERT WOODWARD, B.A. was presented 15 June 1685, and died at Salford, 4 May 1738, aged 77. He kept a school at Aspley. He quitted this living long before his death; and

JOHN TOMPKINS was presented 12 March 1706, by Sir John Wittewrong, bart. He was rector of Wolston Parva; and drowned himself, 2 December 1734.

EDMUND SMITH, B.A., curate of Simpson, succeeded in January 1734, being inducted 10 April following, on the presentation of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough. He was curate of Broughton when he was made rector of Wolverton. He died in November 1782, at his vicarage house at Wolverton, and was buried in the chancel there.

JOHN SHIPTON, B.A., succeeded on the presentation of his brother, James Shipton, their father having obtained the presentation as the lessee of the estate under Earl Spencer, to whom he had been steward. At his death, he was succeeded by

HENRY READE QUARTLEY, presented 4 March 1842. He was also vicar of Wolverton.



ANTIQUE KNOCKER ON THE DOOR OF COWPER'S HOUSE,
AT OLNEY.

GREAT LINFORD.

REAT LINFORD, or Linford Magna, probably derived its name from a ford over the river which might have borne the name of *Lin*. The parish is divided from Little Linford, on the north, by the river Ouse; is bounded on the north-east, by Newport Pagnell; on the south-east, by Willen; and on the west, by Stantonbury. The area of the parish is 1830 acres; and the population in 1891, was 481.

Great Linford is in the petty sessional division, county court district, and rural deanery of Newport Pagnell; arch-deaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

The Grand Junction Canal has a course of upwards two miles through the parish, with three bridges over it.

The village is compact and neat, and is distant about two miles w.s.w. from Newport Pagnell; and two and a half miles east from Wolverton. There is a station here on the Newport Pagnell and Wolverton branch of the London & North-Western railway.

The parish was enclosed about the year 1658.

Manorial History of Great Linford.

At the general survey of the kingdom, made by William the Conqueror, there were in Great Linford, two distinct manors, each consisting of two hides and a virgate and a half of land, both in the possession of Hugh de Bolebec, who held one of them as the feudatory tenant of Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, as part of the Honour of Giffard; and the other, directly as the immediate tenant of the crown.

Besides these two manors, there was also one virgate of land held by Robert, under William Fitz Ausculf, holden of the fee of Newport, as part of the Honour of Dudley; and two hides of the Earl of Morton, by Ranulph, a feudatory tenant; these two hides were afterwards reckoned as part of the Honour of Berkhamstead.

Whether the virgate of land holden under William Fitz Ausculf were subsequently annexed to Newport Pagnell or not is not ascertained; but the tithes of it were given to the priory of Tickford; for, in 1291, the prior of Tickford brought his action against the rector of Great Linford, for taking away the tithe arising on this portion of land; and recovered damages for the wrong.

The lands of the Earl of Morton, as surveyed in Sigelai Hundred, in the lands mentioned in the survey, are described as holden of that earl, by Ranulf, and taxed at two hides. There were two carucates in

the hands of four villeins and three bordars ; and also one servant and two carucates of pasture, valued constantly at 40 shillings. This land had been holden by two men of Alric Fitz Goding ; and they could sell it.

The land of William Fitz Ausculf was holden as one virgate ; there were two oxgangs and one villein ; valued then and constantly at two shillings. This land had been holden by Grimbald, a man of Bis ; and he could sell it.

The land of Hugh de Bolebec was called the manor of Linford, holden by himself, taxed as two hides and one virgate and a half. One carucate in the demesne ; and five villeins with two bordars having one carucate of pasture ; then valued at twenty shillings ; but in the time of Edward at forty shillings. This manor had formerly belonged to three thanes, who could give or sell it.

The land of Walter Giffard here, was surveyed in Rovelai Hundred (not in Sigelai, like the estates of the Earl Morton, William Fitz Ausculf, and Hugh de Bolebec, his contemporaries, although it was holden under him by Hugh, who is always presumed to have been the same Hugh de Bolebec who held the other manor in his own right, of the king himself) ; and is described in extent, as two hides, one virgate and a half, constituting this manor ; there being five carucates, one in the demesne ; and sixteen villeins with two bordars having four carucates. There were four servants, and four carucates of pasture, valued at three pounds ; when he first held it, at forty shillings ; and in the time of Edward, at four pounds. This manor, Alric Fitz Goding had himself holden, and could sell it.

The two hides which formed a part of the Honour of Berkhamstead, were holden by Ralph Mareshall in the time of Henry III.

The two manors belonging to the Honours of Giffard and Bolebec, came on his death, to Hugh de Bolebec, his eldest son ; who in 1145, founded the abbey of Woburn in Bedfordshire, for Cistercian monks ; and directed the foundation of the abbey at Medmenham, as a cell to Woburn. He died in 1164, and probably, left a son in minority, who did not long survive him ; for, in this year, Walter Bolebec, his brother, gave one hundred marks to the king, for the wardship of his nephew ; but appears to have been possessed of his brother's lands in his own right in the year following, when he made a return of the knight's fees held by him, on occasion of the assessment for the king's aid to marry his eldest daughter.

Walter de Bolebec died before 1185, leaving an only daughter, Isabel, then nine years of age ; whose wardship, Alberic de Vere, Earl of Oxford, obtained ; and in 1190, he gave the king 500 marks, that his second son, Robert, might take her to wife. The marriage took place accordingly ; and thus this property was brought into the family of Veres, Earls of Oxford, under whom it was holden till the abolition of feudal services.

The first of these tenants noticed in records, is Radulphus Gibbevin, returned by Walter Bolebec among his feudatory tenants in 1165 ; and his holding is stated to be of the old feoffment, that is, of a date

as early as the time of Henry I. This family continued to hold Great Linford till the reign of Henry III., and were the founders of the church here; one of them, named Geoffrey, was rector in 1215; and he presented his clerk to the vicarage, then newly constituted, in 1220; but there appear no farther traces of this family.

The next possessor of these manors was Ralph Pipard, called also Ralph Fitz Nicholas, for the identity of the person who bore both these names is placed beyond doubt by the records. In what manner they came into his possession, it does not appear; but he paid scutage for them in 1234. He is also stated to have holden them in 1254, and they then formed part of the manor of Bolebec. When he died, is uncertain, for the inquisition taken after his death has not been discovered; but he was succeeded by a son of both his names.

The second Ralph Pipard, who held these manors, died possessed of them in 1309; and was succeeded by John, his son, who, having no male issue, levied a fine of his lands in the following year; by virtue of which, these manors passed to his daughter, who was married to Edmund le Boteler, ancestor of the earls of Ormonde. The time of the death of John Pipard, and of his daughter, is not ascertained; but John Pipard must have died before 1316, for then, Edmund le Boteler had a grant of free warren in part of Pipard's lands, and the wife of Boteler, before the end of the same reign. In 1328, her son James, earl of Ormonde, was in possession of her estates; and in his descendants, the Botelers, this manor continued, till the attainder of James Boteler, earl of Ormonde, created also earl of Wilts in 1452, in 1461; by which event, it came to the crown, and was, in 1465, granted to Richard Middleton, and his male heirs; and afterwards, in 1474, to Gerard Camzion. About ten years afterwards, the scene being changed, on the accession of Henry VII., the Botelers were restored to their lands; and Thomas Boteler, earl of Ormonde, the last of the name, became proprietor of the manor; who leaving no male issue, it came, in marriage with his eldest daughter, Anne, to Sir George St. Leger, who, surviving her husband, had livery thereof; which, on her death, 5 June 1532, was granted to her grand-son, John St. Leger; but, he being compelled to surrender his right and inheritance in 1544 (temp. Henry VIII.), to that prince, and accept in lieu thereof, certain abbey lands in exchange (among which was the priory of Canonsleigh, in Devonshire), this manor thus became part of the possessions of the crown; and, being made parcel of the Honour of Ampthill, was, as such, granted by patent, dated 17 March 1551, to his sister Elizabeth; who, soon after, coming to the crown, by letters patent, dated 29 January 1560, granted it in fee, with other estates, to Richard Campion, and John Thompson, one of the auditors of the Exchequer; and on partition between them, this became the purparty of the latter, who died possessed thereof, 3 April 1597, aged 76, and was buried in the chancel of Husband Crawley church, in Bedfordshire, leaving it in jointure to Dorothy, his wife; on whose decease, in 1620, it descended to his grand-son, John Thompson, afterwards knighted. About 1632, he sold it to Sir Robert Napier, the first baronet of that family (pur-

chaser also of Luton Hoo, in Bedfordshire); and he gave it to his second son, Richard Napier, who settled here, with his family, in 1634: but not having a sufficient title, as he conceived, he obtained a conveyance of it, by deed dated 21 February 1653, from his elder brother, Sir Robert Napier of Luton, who therein conveyed the lordship and manor of Great Linford to the said Robert Napier, who took the degree of doctor of medicine at Oxford in 1642, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him about the same time. He departed this life 17 January 1675, at Basselsleigh, near Abingdon, and was interred in the church here 19 January following, having left this manor to his son, Richard Napier; who, about 1683, sold it to Sir William Pritchard, knight, alderman of London, for about £19,500, who died possessed hereof in 1704, and bequeathed it, after his wife's decease, to his two nephews, Richard Uthwatt and Daniel King. Richard Uthwatt having purchased Daniel King's interest, died possessed thereof in 1719; and it descended to his eldest son and heir, Thomas Uthwatt, who held the same in 1742; and, dying in 1754, left an only daughter, Catherine, who was married to Matthew Knapp, of Little Linford. Henry Uthwatt, of Great Linford, having married the daughter of Sir John Chester, baronet, of Chicheley, and sister of Sir Charles Chester, baronet, deceased, and having no issue, bequeathed, by will, this estate, after the decease of his wife, to his god-son and relation Henry Uthwatt Andrewes. On the decease of the said Catherine Uthwatt, lady of this manor, and widow of the aforesaid Thomas Uthwatt (whom she survived only some few years), the estate came in 1810, to Henry Uthwatt Andrewes, who took the surname of Uthwatt only, and whose descendant still resides here.

Ecclesiastical History of Great Linford.

The advowson had been always appendant to the manor, until the time of Queen Elizabeth; who, by letters patent, dated 2 May 1560, granted the right of presentation to the church, to William Button and Thomas Estcourt; but when the manor was purchased in 1632, by the family of Napier, the advowson was again re-united by his purchase. Sir William Pritchard, knight and alderman of London (who afterwards became the possessor of the estate), and Dame Sarah his wife, were most liberal benefactors, not only to the parish, but to the fabric of the church, in which is a handsome monument to his memory. Sarah, his relict, in 1708, and her two nephews, Daniel King and Richard Uthwatt, repaired and decorated the church, entirely rebuilding the chancel, at the expence of about £1,200.

The rectory consists of fourteen acres of glebe land, in arable, with eleven acres of pasture, a yard and a garden of about two and a half acres; and a claim of exemption from the tithes for the great meadow, having been allowed by the latter incumbents.

The present approximate value of the living is £310, and the real nett value £183 per annum.

A feast or wake is annually kept in Christmas week.

Rectors of Great Linford.

- GALFRIDUS DE GIBBEWIN was rector of Linford Magna about 1215, when it was made a vicarage.
- RICARDUS, capellanus presented per Galfridum de Gibbewin ordinatam de novo per Epm. 1220.
- WALTER DE BRUGES died rector in 1277.
- JOHN DE LINFORD was presented by Ralph Pipard, 12 January 1277.
- THOMAS COLLINGWORTH died 1308; he was succeeded by
- WILLIAM DE HILLUM, presented by Ralph Pipard, in 1308. He resigned.
- WILLIAM NETHFIELD, presented in 1322, by Edmund Boteler.
- THOMAS DE HASELWOOD, presented 9 December 1317, by the feoffees of Sir Edmund de Boteler.
- WALTER DE NORTHFIELD was presented 10 December 1325, by the king. He resigned; and
- JAMES LAWLES was presented 6 March 1328, on the presentation of James, Earl of Ormonde. At his death,
- JEFFREY DE ALVETON was presented 16 October 1332, by James le Boteler, Earl of Ormonde; he exchanged it for Hanborough, in Oxfordshire, with
- ALEXANDER QUAPLODE, who was presented 7 September 1336, by the attorney of James Boteler, Earl of Ormonde; he died in 1341; and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM DE BROMLEY, presented 3 August 1341, by Eleanor, Countess of Ormonde. At his death,
- HENRY RYS was presented 9 February 1349, by Sir Thomas de Dagworth; he exchanged for Westbury vicarage, in Hereford Diocese, with
- JOHN WOODWARD, 30 June 1368; he exchanged for Great Braddel, in Norwich Diocese, with
- RICHARD GEDINGTON, 25 January 1369; who exchanged for Northfield, in Worcester Diocese, with
- THOMAS BAY, presented 4 May 1371, and exchanged for Holcote, with
- JOHN WRYGHT, 20 September 1380, on the presentation of John Kingsfield. He exchanged for Walkerne, in Hertfordshire, with
- JOHN PECKEL, who was presented 16 October 1385, by James Butler, Earl of Ormonde. He exchanged for Histon St. Andrew, in Ely Diocese, with
- THOMAS HAXEY, who was presented 3 November 1390, by Ann Countess of Ormonde, He resigned being beneficed in York Cathedral, and was succeeded by
- NICHOLSON LODE, who was presented 11 May 1391, by James Butler, Earl of Ormonde. He resigned; and
- SIMON GAUNSTEDE was presented 17 January 1392, on the same presentation. He died in 1423, Archdeacon of Wilts; and
- JOHN MARESCALL was presented 1 April 1393, by the Earl of Ormonde's attorney.
- JOHN COKE was presented 20 May 1445, by James Earl of Ormonde. At his death,
- HENRY MIDDLETON was presented 19 April 1469, by Richard Middleton, of Norton Davey, and the Lady Maud his wife. He died; and
- THOMAS SMITHSON, LL.B., was presented 27 June 1491, by Thomas, Earl of Ormonde He died; and
- JOHN LEDBURY was presented 3 July 1506, by the Earl of Ormonde. He resigned; and
- BRYAN DARLEY was presented and instituted 3 March 1518, by Anne St. Leger, called "Dr. Darley" in 1526. He died; and
- THOMAS ST. LEGER was presented in August 1527, by Anne St. Leger, relict of Sir Thomas Ormonde. On his cession,
- JOHN COTTISFORD was presented and instituted 26 September 1529, on the presentation of Anne St. Leger. He was rector of Ekeney-cum-Petsoe in 1536. On his resignation,
- THOMAS ATTWELL was presented 29 October 1535, by the same patron. On his cession,
- CHRISTOPHER DANIEL was presented 22 January 1540, by Robert Annesley, of Newport Pagnell, exconcessionem Johannis St. Leger, Arm.

ADAM WINTER was presented 26 August 1554, by John Lamburn, patron *pro hac vice*.

JOHN LONGLAND was presented 30 April 1574, on the presentation of John Troughton. He died in 1589; and was buried at Tingewick, where he was also rector; being likewise archdeacon of Bucks.

RICHARD SANDY alias NAPIER, was presented 12 March 1589, by Edward Kimp-ton, merchant tailor of London. He was buried here, 16 April 1634. He was a very remarkable character. Having studied physic and astrology, he professed the practice of those sciences in conjunction with the cure of the souls. His practice as a physician became very extensive, it being given out that he held communion with the Angel Gabriel, and could foretell the death or recovery of his patients. This procured him considerable credit in a superstitious age, and he was resorted to by persons of the first rank and distinction. In the Parish Register his interment is thus entered, "April 15, 1634. Buried, Mr. Richard Napier, rector, the most renowned physician both of soul and body." Dr. Napier's papers came into the hands of Mr. Ashmole, and are now in the Ashmolean Museum, at Oxford.

THEODORICK GRAVIUS, M.A., presented 7 September 1634, by Richard Napier. He was rector 1640 and 1650. It was ordered by the House of Commons, 18 June 1642, that Mr. Theodorick Gravius, rector of the parish church of Great Linford, in the county of Bucks, shall have liberty to go beyond the seas, with one servant and his trunk; provided he carry no prohibited goods.

GEORGE KINDLETON was presented 18 May 1661, by Sir Richard Napier, knight.

JOHN FOUNTAINE, M.A., was presented 16 May 1663, on the same presentation. He was also rector of Woolston, and was buried here, 1 September 1677.

JOHN KILPIN, M.A., was presented 12 September 1677, by Thomas Napier. He was buried at Newport Pagnell, 10 March 1698. At his decease

RICHARD LEE, M.A., was presented 25 May 1698, by Sir William Pritchard, knight, alderman of London. He resigned; and was succeeded by

JOHN COLES, M.A., instituted 4 February 1699, on the same presentation.

SAMUEL BARTON, B.A., was inducted 18 October 1748, and presented by Thomas Uthwatt, on the death of John Coles. He died 24 May 1755, at Knightsbridge, where he had removed from London for the benefit of the air; and was buried at Great Brickhill. He had been rector of Emberton from 1742 to 1753, holding that rectory till Mr. Robert Pomfret was old enough to take it. He was the eldest son of the Rev. John Barton, rector of Great Brickhill.

ROBERT CHAPMAN, M.A., rector of Little Woolston, was presented 9 November 1755, on the death of Barton, by Thomas Uthwatt, and instituted 9 November 1755. He died vicar of Ravenstone, 1785. On his cession

LAWSON SHANN, LL.B., was presented 20 August 1762, by Sir Roger Newdigate, baronet, and William Bagot, in trust for Frances Uthwatt, the widow of Thomas Uthwatt. At his decease

EDMUND SMITH, M.A., was presented 21 July 1770, by Sir William Bagot, bart., and Sir Roger Newdigate, bart., and inducted 21 July 1770. He died rector of Tyringham in 1789.

WILLIAM SMITH, M.A., was presented by the same patrons, on his father's resignation, and inducted 18 July 1786. At his death he was succeeded by

FRANCIS LITCHFIELD, M.A., presented in 1836, by the Rev. William Andrewes, M.A., rector of Lillingston Dayrell, and vicar of Stowe.

SIDNEY HERBERT WILLIAMS, was presented in 1876. He died 30 December 1899.

The Church of St. Andrew, Great Linford.

The church is in the Early Decorated style, but it has been very much disfigured. The tower is low and embattled, and contains six good bells, inscribed :

First : HENRICUS UTHWATT ARMIGER ME SUIS SUMPTIBUS HIC COLLORARI CURAVIT 1756.

Second: QUOD SIT SACRA DIES PRIMO DENUNCIO MANE 1756.

Third: DET SONITUM PLENUM DEUS ET MODULAMEN ALENUM
J: EAYRE St NEOTS FECIT 1756.

Fourth: AD TEMPLUM PER ME POPULUS PROPERARE JUBETUR
1756.

Fifth: CONJUGIUM PARTUS MYSTERIA FESTA DECORO ANNO.
DOMINI 1756.

Sixth: ME RESONARE JUBENT HOMINUM MORS CONERO FUNUS.

Round lip: Quinque quæ maximæ sunt ponderis campanæ (quibus simul addita fuit non parva metalli moles) de novo sunt constatæ sumptibus Henrici Uthwatt armigeri. Anno Dmni 1756. Josepho Eayre artifice. Robert Chapman rectore. Philipo Ward Ioanne Rawlins ædituis.

Sanctus: 1753.

The weight of the six bells is 60 cwt., and they were made from the original and ancient peal of five, in the year 1756.

There are two traditions of fatal accidents having occurred in the belfry. In one case, after the bells had been rung for a short time blood was noticed running down one of the ropes, and it was found that a man, who had been among the bells unknown to the ringers, had been killed. The other accident is said to have happened to one of the ringers who was carried up by the rope of the fourth bell.



HERE LYETH THE BODYE OF ANNE
VVEDALL^E WIFE OF IOHN VVEDALL
GENT^E WHO DECEASED Y^E 18TH DAYE OF
IANVARY 1611 BEINGE OF AGE LXII YERES



The tower, nave, and aisles are covered with lead and embattled; the chancel is tiled. There is a porch on the north side having a deeply recessed doorway, a groined ceiling, and an upper chamber or parvis, the porch is now used as a vestry. The south aisle is divided from the nave by three pointed arches, and the north aisle by two.

The tracery of all the windows has been destroyed. Those on the north side have rich four-leaved flowers round the outer moulding. There are eight windows in the clerestory of the nave. The tower arch, which is built up, is pointed and rests upon clustered columns. The west

window is small and of two lights.

The font is modern and lined with marble. The chancel is small and

is entered through a pointed arch, which rests upon clustered columns of smaller dimensions than those of the tower arch.

There are three very fine and well preserved brasses, with effigies in civil dress. The first of these is upon a grey marble slab near the communion rails, to the memory of the Uvedall family, is as illustrated on the preceding page.

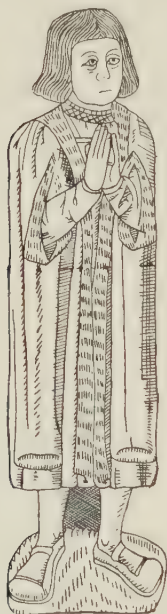
The second brass lies in a slab of grey marble in the centre of the nave, and is to the memory of Roger Hunt and family. Below the inscription at their feet are places for children, both male and female, which are erased and have been lost. Above the heads are two shields; in that over the man, *Ihu mercy*; in the other, over the woman, *Lady helpe*. Round the whole stone is a fillet of brass, with this inscription: *Orate Pro Animabus Rogeri Hunt Et Johanne Uxoris Eius Qui Quidem Rogerus Obijt Videsimo Tercio Die . . . o Domini Millimo CCC^o Septuagesimo tercio Quorum Animabus Propicietur Deus J M & A Ihu Mercy Lady Helpe.*



Here lieth j dolben under this stone § Roger hunt & Johane his Wiffe
Of whose propre costes a lone § This Churche Was payed soon all y^e liffe
Almighty jhr sittng in troue § On bothe their soules to have mey
As thou camyst from yifader a lone § Wt bi precious blood manys soule to by

The eight line inscription at the foot of the effigies of this memorial is the most curious of any in the Hundreds, especially the third and fourth lines.

The third brass is upon a slab in the centre of the north aisle and to the memory of Thomas Malyn and his family. Below the inscription at the feet of the man and the woman is a brass of their daughter, that of the son has been erased; likewise the fillet with its inscription, that surrounded the slab, which bears evidence of having other brasses attached to it; whether arms, or shields bearing wording, is not known.



Of your charite pray for the soul of Thomas Malyn gentylman & Elizabeth his Wyfe which Thomas dyed the xvj day of deceber 3^o dni M^o V^o cxxvi^o on whos soul jhu have mcy.



In the chancel, and near to the Uvedall brass, is an inscription to Edward Harrison, Gent., who died in 1676. On the north wall of the chancel is a neat and elegant tablet of white marble, to the memory of the Rev. John Coles (and Anne his wife) upwards of 48 years rector of this church, who died in 1748, in his 82nd year. There is likewise in

the chancel, a neat marble memorial of the Rev. William Smyth, who for upwards of 51 years was rector of this parish, and who departed this life in 1837, in the 77th year of his age. At the west end of the north aisle there is an elegant marble tablet to Sir Wm. Pritchard, Knt., who died in 1704, in his 74th year. He lies buried in a vault beneath; likewise Lady Sarah, his wife, daughter of Francis Cooke, Esq., of Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, and their only son, William, who died in 1685, in the 16th year of his age. At the east end of the aisle, is a handsome marble tablet inscribed to the memory of Thomas Uthwatt, Esq., who died in 1754, aged 61; and to Catherine, his wife, daughter of Richard Dalton, Esq., of Walesby, Lincolnshire, who died in 1769, aged 74 years. There is likewise in the aisle a large medallion in marble (by Westmacott) affixed to the wall and inscribed "Sacred to the memory of Catherine Knapp, relict of Matthew Knapp, Esq., of Little Lynford, and daughter of Thomas and Catherine Uthwatt," who died in 1794, aged 69 years. There are several members of the Napier and Uthwatt families buried in the church.

The Register begins in 1554, from which the following extract was made:

1754. Aug. 8, Tho^s. Uthwatt, Esq. This polite and accomplished Gent. who had travelled through France and Italy, and had been High Sheriff for this Co. having been at times disordered in his mind, cut his own throat, and died a few hours after, at his house in this parish. He left a Dr^r only, behind him, the wife of Matthew Knapp of Little Linford, Esq.

The Manor House of Great Linford.

The manor house, now called Great Linford Place, was the residence of Mrs. Uthwatt, widow of the late Rev. William Uthwatt, who was head of the ancient family of Andrewes of Lathbury (see page 209). He was rector of Maids Moreton, vicar of Stowe, domestic chaplain to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, chaplain to the 2nd regiment of the Bucks yeomanry, and a county magistrate. He died 20 September 1877, aged 84 years, and was buried in the church yard, on the north side, where a tomb-stone marks the place of his interment. The estate came to him through Rich. Uthwatt, who, as stated in the account of Lathbury, intermarried with the family of Andrewes of that place. The Rev. W. A. Uthwatt married the daughter and coheir of the late James Long Long, formerly James Long Hutton, who changed his name to Long on coming into possession of certain estates in Wiltshire, which passed away to Walter Long, his heir at law, being entailed. This lady, who became the head of her family on the death of her father, was descended, by a female branch, from Edward III., through a daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, that monarch's son. With her, the Rev. Uthwatt had, in marriage, the principal estate in Maids Moreton, and the advowson of the rectory, as well as estates in the parishes of Cartmel and Whittington, in North Lancashire.

The house is now the residence of William Frances Andrewes Uthwatt, who is master of the celebrated pack of otter hounds.

It is a good house, built of stone, and situated in extensive grounds. On the lawn, on the west front, still stands the ancient sundial,

Great Linford Alms Houses.

Near the east end of the churchyard is a range of buildings containing seven tenements, the centre one being three stories in height, and the others only one story. These tenements were erected by Sir William Pritchard as alms houses for six poor people, the centre tenement being for a school, and a residence for a teacher. There is a small garden for each tenement.

Great Linford Congregational Chapel.

The Congregationalists have a small place of worship in the village. It was erected in 1833, and has 40 sittings.

Great Linford Charities.

By his will, dated 1702, Sir William Pritchard bequeathed a yearly rent-charge of £34 issuant out of land in Great Linford; £24 of which he directed to be divided between the six inmates of the alms houses by him there lately erected; and £10 to the schoolmaster for teaching poor children.

Lady Sarah Pritchard, who died in 1718, left £800 in certain funds connected with the city of London, then yielding £32 per annum. The testatrix directed £7/10/- of this sum to be paid yearly for ever, for putting forth four poor boys born in this parish, and instructed in the school there, to be apprentices; £6 to be expended in providing for the six alms men or alms women, every Christmas, a gown and breeches for each man, and a gown and petticoat for each woman; £1 per annum for the rector, on condition that he should not permit any beasts to feed in the churchyard; and £1 to the parish clerk for keeping the church pews and windows clean. In 1803, the principal sum was paid by the city of London, and a sum of £594/10/- three per cent. consols purchased therewith. The alms people receive one shilling and sixpence per week, and £1 each every Christmas in lieu of clothing. £10 a year is devoted to the school fund.

A yearly rent-charge of £8, chargeable upon the lands of the lord of the manor, and the gift of an unknown donor, is distributed amongst the poor parishioners.

WILLEN.



WILLEN, anciently spelt Wylyne, is a parish of 678 acres and 86 inhabitants, according to the census returns of 1891. The village consists of a church, the vicarage, two farm houses and a few cottages. It is situated two miles south from Newport Pagnell, and five miles north from Fenny Stratford.

The parish is bounded on the north, by Newport Pagnell; on the east, by the river Lovat, Moulsoe and Broughton; on the south, by Little Woolston; and on the west, by the Grand Junction Canal and Great Linford.

Willen is in the petty sessional division, union, and county court district of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery of Bletchley; arch-deaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

There are no records of any antiquities having been dug up or found in the parish, such as coins, pieces of armour, or fragments of pottery.

Manorial History of Willen.

On compiling Domesday Book, Willen was surveyed and included in Caldecot Vill, in Newport Pagnell parish; Caldecot being then divided into two manors, one of which, no doubt, comprised Caldecot, and the other this of Willen. In the book called *Nomina Hundredorum*, it is joined with it, and there put down "Welyn-cum-Caldecot." It belonged, in the time of the Conqueror, to William Fitz Ausculph, and came to the Paganells as Newport did; which family gave the church of Wylene to the priory of Tickford, of the foundation of Fulk Pagnell. In the reign of John, Jeffrey Gibbewin, lord of Great Linford, or owner of lands there, had also demesnes here, for he was a doner of lands in Willen to Snelshall priory.

In 1209, a fine was levied of lands here between Roesia de Verdun and Hugh de Salford. In the reign of Henry III., John de Evere held lands here with Caldecot. In 1251, Isabella de Evere levied a fine of lands in Willen, which was passed to her by Denden of Caldecot, who granted the same to her for life; and in 1390, John de Broughton and Theobald de Verdun passed a fine of lands in Willen; who, however, early in the reign of Henry IV., conveyed the manors of Willen and Caldecot, to Andrew Hanchet, or Hanchyt. He died possessed thereof, leaving a son named John, a minor. These manors appear to have continued in the possession of the family of Hanchet, until 1543, when John Hanchet, conveyed the manors of Caldecot and Willen to John White, who had a son Thomas White, prebendary of St. Paul's in London, and who died without issue in 1623. He had also a brother,

named George White, whose daughter Susan, becoming the wife of William Nicoll, counsellor of law 1571, brought to that family the manor of Willen; that of Caldecot continuing in the family of White till about 1698, when it was conveyed to Roger Chapman, father of Thomas Chapman, who died possessed of Caldecot manor in 1735.

The above mentioned William Nicoll was son of John, the son of Henry, the son of John, who lived at Islip, in Northamptonshire, a person of consequence, and entitled to a coat of arms, but as was very common in those days, without having a crest attached to it. William's son John, to whom this manor descended, being an ambitious young man, went to Buckingham and petitioned Queen Elizabeth to remedy the defect. Her majesty was, fortunately, in a good humour, and being fond of a Latin quotation, although utterly despising all received translations, replied "*Cedant arma togæ*," which words Mr. Segar, the norroy king of arms, declared must have had one of two meanings, either "Let them grant the lawyer a coat of arms" or "Let them grant him a crest for his livery." The interpretation was accepted by the Queen, and the grant of a crest (illustrated on the opposite page) to the Nicoll family is as follows:

To all and singular as well Nobles as Gentles to whom these p^{nts} shall come. Will^m Segar, Esquire, Norroy King of Armes sendeth his due comendacions and greeting. Know yee that whereas anniently from the begynning it hath byn a Custome in all Countreys and Comonwealthes well governed that the bearing of certeyn markes in shields, comonly called Armes, have byn, and are used by persons ever of the best degree and calling as the onely demonstrations of their prowesse and valor in tymes of warre as for their good life and conversacon in tymes of peace. Amongst the which number for that I fynde John Nicoll of Buckingham, the sonne of Will^m Nicoll of Willen in the County of Buckingham, which Will^m was the sonne of John Nicoll of Islippe in the County of Northampton, the sonne of Henry the sonne of John who lyved ano dni 1467. Whoe bore for their annient Coat of Armes Azur three Egetlets in bend between two Cottises engraied, and six Crosletts fichée Or. as they are to be seen both on grave stones and windows in the Parish Church of Islippe aforesaid and not knowing certeynly of any Crest to belong to their said Coate of Armes, as many annient Coats are found to want, hath requested mee the said Norroy to appoint hym suche a one as hee may lawfully beare withoute wrongeing or prejudice to others, the which according unto his earnest request I have accomplished and done. Viz., on the wreath of his coullors an Eagle rousant Or. supporting a Crosse croissette fichée Azur, as more playnly is depicted in the margent. All which Armes and Crest I the said Norroy doe by theis presents ratefy and confirme unto the said John Nicoll, and to his posterity forever; And hee and they to use, beare and shewe forth the same in Signett, Shield, Coat, Armor or otherwise at hys and their free liberty and pleasure. In witness whereof I the said Norroy unto theise p^{nts} have sett my hand and seale of Office the XXIIIrd daye of June in the XLIIIrd Yeaere of the raigne of our souveraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England Ffrance and Ireland, Defender of the faith. A^{no} Dⁿⁱ 1601.

Will^m Segar, Norroy King of Armes.

This family of Nicoll, were of considerable importance in the Newport Hundreds. In 1642 they added the manors of Great Woolston and Woughton to their other property. One member of the family, Matthias Nicoll, emigrated to America in the year 1660, and purchased extensive lands near New York, which are still in possession of Henry Nicoll, a descendant of this family. There is



SED QUI
FIDE VIDE

reason to believe that the Nicolls were much beloved by their dependents, by many of whom they were followed to their new home across the Atlantic. Sir Charles Gunter Nicoll, who came into possession of the manors of Olney and Bradwell Abbey, was a member of this family.

As to this manor, it descended to John Nicoll, of the Temple, son of the aforesaid William, born 1584, and who married Thomazine, daughter of Reynes Lowe, of Clifton Reynes (see page 30). Thomazine died in 1647, leaving issue three sons, Roger, Francis, and William; who having ruined themselves by enclosing the parish about 1650, sold this manor, about 1657, to Robert Hammond, a colonel in the Parliamentary army, who was at the time of his purchasing, styled of Chertsey, in Surrey. Robert Hammond, well known in history as the guardian of Charles I., in Carisbrook castle, in the Isle of Wight, died, leaving issue three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Lettice, infants; and they, by an Act of Parliament passed about the year 1673, conveyed it to Richard Busby, the celebrated master of Westminster school, and prebendary of that church, who, dying in 1695, without issue, possessed thereof, by his last will and testament vested the manor of Willen in certain trustees and appropriated the whole of the lordship to charitable uses. The trustees have added additional land to the estate by the purchase of Wolf's Fields, Eakley Lanes (see page 106).

Ecclesiastical History of Willen.

The advowson was given by the Paganells to Tickford priory, and became appropriated to it about 1220; and on the dissolution of that priory, was granted to Cardinal Wolsey for his college at Oxford; but it reverted to the crown on the cardinal's attainder; and so the crown continued patron of the vicarage, till Charles II., by letters patent, granted to Heneage Lord Finch, Lord High Chancellor of England, the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Willen, in order for him to convey the same to Dr. Richard Busby, who had purchased the manor, and bestowed it upon charitable uses, and consolidated the rectorial tithes, and united them to the vicarial tithes; so that the vicar enjoys the whole revenue of the church. The vicarage was, in 1534, valued at £7/10/-; its present approximate value is £117, and its nett value £99 per annum.

Dr. Busby augmented the vicarage above £20 per annum, and directed the vicar to read twenty-two lectures on the church catechism, of which eight are to be read in the Lent Sundays. His executors are obliged to present to the vicarage a student of Christ Church, Oxford, who is to be a person that comes to that college, by election, from Westminster school.

By a Terrier, dated in 1639, and signed Robert Withers, D.D., the rectory consisted of a dwelling house of two bays, a kitchen of two bays, a barn of three bays, and a small pigstye, containing half an acre. The churchyard contained one rood and three tenements. In the South Field, three leys; in the same, one acre, one rood, and fourteen lands. In the Middle Field, alias Welt Field, nine lands, two

roods ; in the same field, one rood of ley. In the North Field, seven lands, three roods ; and three leys. In the Out Meadow, two half acres and five roods.

Vicars of Willen.

ALANUS, presented 8 October 1223, by the prior and convent of Newport Pagnell.
 RICHARD, died 1274 ; and was succeeded by
 ROBERT DE COMBEWELL, presented 7 March 1274.
 WILLIAM DE CRAUNFIELD was presented 7 September 1334, by Fulc, prior of Newport. He resigned ; and
 JOHN DE STOKE GOLDINGTON was presented 2 October 1349, by the king, by reason of the temporalities of Tickford priory being in his hands.
 JOHN SMITH died vicar 1366 ; and was succeeded by
 THOMAS HUDDUL, who was instituted 6 February 1366.
 ROBERT DERBY was presented by the king, the temporalities being in his hands, on account of the war in France, and admitted 30 June 1381. He exchanged for Wennington, in Essex, with
 RICHARD ASTON, 8 September 1389 ; who exchanged for Woolston Parva, with
 WILLIAM DE WOLASTON, 14 October 1392. He exchanged for Everton, in Bedfordshire, with
 ADAM BRICKLESWORTH, 4 July 1392 ; who exchanged for Shalford, in Essex, with
 JOHN WESTON, 19 November 1394. He died in 1416 ; and
 ROGER COKE DE GAMYLSTON was presented 26 August 1416.
 JOHN WHALLEY was presented 31 July 1435.
 THOMAS WESTON was collated 16 November 1441, by the bishop, on lapse. He died ; and
 RICHARD MERSTON was presented 15 July 1453, by the convent of Tickford. He resigned ; and
 THOMAS BRERE was presented 30 July 1459.
 ROBERT PRUDD succeeded about 1469. He resigned ; and
 JOHN LAWRENCE was instituted 25 November 1477.
 ROBERT COOK was instituted 26 April 1497. He died ; and
 JOHN CHRISTIAN was instituted 4 June 1501.
 THOMAS SAXBY was instituted 19 October 1540, on Anthony Cave's presentation ; in consequence of the suppression of Tickford priory.
 WILLIAM DANE was instituted 25 September 1544, on the presentation of King's college, Oxford. At his death,
 JOHN WALWYN was presented by the queen, and instituted 14 December 1570.
 THOMAS POTTER was instituted 24 November 1573.
 THOMAS UNDERHILL, M.A., was instituted 8 January 1599.
 ROBERT WITHERS, B.A., was instituted 16 May 1607. He died ; and
 THOMAS BRUER succeeded in 1653. At his death,
 RICHARD REYNOLDS was appointed about 1657.
 DANIEL WALSH succeeded in 1659 ; but quitted it in 1663, for Aldwinkle, in Northamptonshire.
 JOHN STEPHENSON was presented by the king 17 December 1663. He died, and his successor was
 JOHN BEDFORD, M.A., who was instituted 20 January 1712, on the presentation of the trustees of Dr. Busby. He died ; and
 DANIEL SHIPTON, M.A., was instituted 1765. He was also rector of Wavendon ; and died in 1805. He was also master of the North Bucks Hounds.
 WILLIAM PAGE, M.A., was presented, and inducted 25 February 1806. He was head master of Westminster school and held other livings. At his death,
 THOMAS GARDENER, M.A., was presented in May 1820. He was curate of Little Woolston and Stantonbury. At his death,
 GEORGE PHILLIMORE, M.A., was instituted in 1832. He was also curate of Little Linford. He was succeeded by,
 JOHN BENTHALL, who was presented in 1852. At his death,

RODNEY GRANVILLE RANDOLPH, M.A., was presented in 1888.
 E. H. MORRIS, was presented in 1897. He resigned; and,
 R. H. TAYLOR, was presented by the Busby trustees, in 1898.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Willen.

The church was rebuilt in 1680 by Dr. Busby, at a cost of nearly £5,000, besides the materials of the former edifice. Lipscomb observes that "with good management the church might have been built for a third part of the money." It is a plain structure in the Italian style, built of brick with stone dressings, and consists of a nave with apse, a chancel, and a west tower, through which the church is entered, by some stone steps. The tower contains three bells, each inscribed

RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1683.

On each angle of the tower is an ornament somewhat in the shape of a pine apple. The side walls of the nave are pierced by six plain windows; the pulpit and desk are of oak; the font, of marble, is ornamented with heads of cherubim, and has a carved oak cover; the pews are neat, and of oak; and the ceiling is coved, and enriched with angels' heads and other ornaments. The floor within the communion rails is paved with black and white marble. There is a vestry on one side of the tower, and on the other side is a room erected for a library, chiefly for divinity, and founded by Dr. Busby, for the use of the vicar. The books, to the number of 618, have been removed to the vicarage, and in 1848, by order of the trustees, they were numbered and properly catalogued.

The old church was like that of Great Woolston, though without a turret, the two bells belonging to it hanging in arches, as at Little Linford.

The registers date from the year 1665.

Willen Vicarage House

Is an ancient looking building of red brick, west of the church, and approached, from the church, by an avenue of trees.

The Manor House of Willen

Stands in a delightful situation, a short distance from the church, and is partly ancient and partly modern. The views from it are extensive. It is now a farm dwelling.

MOULSOE.

 HIS parish lies on the verge of Bedfordshire, by which it is bounded on the east; on the south, by Broughton; on the west, by Milton Keynes and Willen; and on the north, by Newport Pagnell and North Crawley. It contains 1654 acres, of which about 150 acres are woodland, and known as Moulsoe Old Wood, Moulsoe Lower Wood, and Drake's Gorse. The farms are Wood End Farm, Cottage Farm, and Moulsoe Buildings, which are situated on the east side of the London road, that passes through Newport Pagnell.

In 1712 the parish contained 67 families and 270 inhabitants; in 1811, a population of 243; and in 1891, it had decreased to 214.

The village is small and scattered, and is seated upon a conspicuous eminence three miles south-east from Newport Pagnell

Moulso, or Moulshoe, gave name to one of the three ancient Hundreds of which that of Newport Pagnell is now comprised. The various ways of spelling this ancient and by-gone Hundred in Domesday Book are, Moisselai, Molesley, Molesoveslav, Moselai, Moslai, Moslei, Mosleie, and Muselai.

It is in the same civil and ecclesiastical jurisdiction as the preceding parish of Willen.

Manorial History of Moulsoe.

Moulsoe had been divided among eight thanes, in the time of Edward the Confessor; and was given by the Conqueror, to Walter Giffard, afterwards Earl of Buckingham; under whom it was holden by a feudatory tenant, named Richard, and estimated at ten hides. The land was sufficient for seven ploughs. In the demesne was one; and seven villeins, with nine bordars had six. There was one servant, and pasture for five plough teams; wood for one hundred hogs. It was worth £6; when he first held it, one hundred shillings; but in the time of Edward, £8. The eight thanes who formerly held it, might sell their land. One of them was a man of Aluin, who held two hides for his manor. Ulf, a man of Asgar, the master of the horse, two hides for a manor. Else, one hide. Turchil, one hide. Lodi, one hide. Osulf, one hide. Ebric, half a hide.

Moulsoe descended from Walter Giffard, to his son, the second Earl of Buckingham, who held the seigniori until his death, in 1164. And it is presumed, that it was retained, with the rest of the Giffard's land, by Henry II.; who, accepting some partial alienation of particular lordships, kept possession until the end of his reign, in 1189; and on the partition of the inheritance, after the accession of Richard I.,

Moulsoe fell to the share of the Earl of Pembroke ; in 1246, it was included in the share of Joane, wife of William de Valence, daughter of Joane Mareshal, by Warine de Monchensy, in the reign of Edward III. ; and passed by inheritance, to the Talbots, in right of Sir William or Richard Talbot and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and co-heiress of John Comyn, of Badenagh, niece of Aymer de Valence, and continued in their descendants, until it became the property of the crown, in the reign of Henry VI.

During the whole of this period, Moulsoe was holden under the chief lords by feudatory tenants ; but whether descended or not from Richard, whose name is preserved in Domesday Book, has not been ascertained. The next notice of it, which has been traced in records, is in the Testa de Nevile, a record of the first year of the reign of Henry III., where it is stated that Faulk Cowdray paid scutage for it as for one knight's fee ; that it was of the old feoffment, or tenure, of the time of Henry I. ; and that he held it of the Earl Marshal, who held in chief of the king. As his tenure had its origin in the time of the first Henry, it is probable that he was a descendant of the Richard mentioned in Domesday Book.

Faulk Cowdray continued in possession of the manor till his death, in 1251, when it was holden of the Honour of Marshall, as parcel of the Honour of Giffard.

Peter Cowdray, his son and heir, succeeded to his inheritance, and was the next lord of Moulsoe.

In 1294, a fine was levied between William Hoddell, of Moulsoe, querent, and John de Paddlesworth, and Alice his wife, of messuages in Moulsoe.

In 1307, a fine was levied between Clemence, abbess of the church of St. Elen, of Elnestowe, querent, and Roger Percy and Alice his wife, deforcients, of lands and woodlands in Moulsoe, in the use of the abbess and church of Elnestowe.

In 1310, a fine was levied between Thomas, son of Thomas de Cowdray, and Lucy his wife, querents, and Thomas de Cowdray, deforciant, of the manor of Moulsoe ; which Thomas granted to his son Thomas and Lucy, and the heirs of their bodies. Sir Thomas Cowdray held Moulsoe in 1330 and 1333.

In 1343, Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, died possessed of knight's fees in Linford, Little Woolston, and Moulshoe.

In 1364, a fine was passed between William de Moulsoe, clerk, querent, and Faulk Cowdray, chivalier, and Johanna his wife, deforcients, of the manor of Moulsoe, which Faulk and J'anna granted to William during the life of Faulk.

In 1397, Ralph Lord Talbot and Anchoreta his wife, were possessed of the manor of Moulsoe. And in 1399, Gilbert Talbot, chivalier, was, by inquisition, found to have died possessed of a rent charge in Moulsoe, at thirteen shillings and fourpence per annum.

In 1416, a fine was levied between John Moreton and Johanna his wife, querents, and Robert Moreton and Johanna his wife, deforcients, of messuages, lands, and rents in Moulsoe and Broughton ; which

Robert and Joan granted to John and Joan, and to their heirs male of their bodies, remainder to the heirs of the body of John; remainder to Thomas, brother of John, and to the heirs of his body; remainder to the right heirs of Johanna, wife of Robert.

In 1419, Gilbert Lord Talbot, chivalier died possessed of Moulsoe, leaving issue, a daughter only, who died, without issue, two years after him.

In 1463, Moulsoe manor was given to John Brame, being parcel of the lands of Sir Robert Whittingham, knight, of Penley, in Herts, attainted, who had willed it to his son Richard, in 1452; and it was afterwards given by Edward IV., in 1477, to Thomas Grey.

In 1496, a fine was levied between Sir John Verney, knight, and Margaret his wife, who was daughter and heir of Robert Whittingham, of this manor of Moulsoe.

In 1508, a fine was levied between John Mordaunt and others, querents, and Richard Everton and Agnes his wife, deforcients of lands in North Crawley and Moulsoe.

In 1529, a fine was levied between Walter Mershe, Thomas Moore, knight, William Wassingham, John Williams, Richard Jerveys, and John Asteley, querents, and Thomas Routhall, deforciant, of 20 messuages, 500 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of wood, in Moulsoe and Stony Stratford, to the use of Walter.

In 1543, Henry VIII., by an exchange of lands with John Mershe, obtained this manor, and annexed it to the Honour of Ampthill.

In 1560, Queen Elizabeth recites, that she had, by indenture, demised to Robert Power all the manor of Moulsoe *cum pert.* for twenty-one years, at the rent of a red rose, and £10/13/8 per annum, which indenture being cancelled, she regranted the premises, late annexed to the Honour of Ampthill, except the advowson, *habund.* from Michaelmas last past, for thirty-one years, at the rent of a red rose.

The Queen recites of Moulsoe manor *ut supra*, to Robert Power, gent.; which letters patent formerly granted by her being surrendered to be cancelled by Richard Stonely, she regranted the premises to him for twenty-one years, at the rent of £8 for the manor; and other premises granted £10/17/8. This patent gave him the disposal of the advowson; and mentioned that part of the premises were exchanged with J. Mershe, by Henry VIII., and by him annexed to the Honour of Ampthill.

The Queen recites, that she demised, 29 May 1590, *inter al.* to Richard Stonely, the site of Moulsoe manor; and two closes, containing 12 acres, 136 acres of arable, 10 of meadow, a messuage, 3 acres of land, and 15 acres of pasture, and 17 acres of arable; a messuage; 19 acres of arable; a messuage and close, and 3 acres of meadow and 5 of arable; a close called Paine's Close; a messuage and close adjoining, 60 acres of arable, and a close called Middle Yard; another messuage, and 3 crofts and 20 acres, and one close near the Lord Mordaunt's wood, and 81 acres of land; another messuage, and 3 closes and 50 acres of arable land; with several cottages and divers tenements, with their appurtenances; all of which premises were parcel of

Her Majesty's possessions before her accession to the crown, and were before, parcel of the possessions of John Mershe, exchanged with Henry VIII., and to the Honour of Amphill annexed, except certain woods, court leets, advowsons, etc., *habend.* to Richard Stonely, from Michaelmas then next, for twenty-one years, reddendo for the manor of Moulsoe, *cum pert.* £8; and for the other premises £16/6/8. The reversion of which premises, she demiseth to Robert Power, with the several rents, after the expiration of Richard Stonely's term, to him for his life, and to his executors and assigns, for forty years after.

The Queen recites her demesne of Moulsoe manor for forty-five years; the reversion of which, she granted to Sir John Spencer, to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, of the manor of East Greenwich, in free soccage, by the fortieth part of a knight's fee.

James I., granted, *inter al.* to William Lloyd and Thomas Gooch, of London, all those lands, tenements, meadows and pastures *cum pert.* in Moulsoe, in the occupation of T. Matthews, part of the possessions of the late monastery of Lavendon, in this county, of the annual value of thirteen shillings and fourpence, *habend.*, to them, their heirs and assigns for ever. A daughter and heiress of Sir John Spencer carried it in marriage to the Comptons, Earls of Northampton. In 1801, Spencer Earl of Northampton, sold the estate to Robert, Lord Carrington, whose descendants still retain possession.

The manor house has long since been demolished; according to tradition it stood on the south side of the church.

Ecclesiastical History of Moulsoe.

The advowson belonged to the convent of Goring, in Oxfordshire, before the reign of John, and was leased in 1199 to the Mordaunts; and at the expiration of the term, coming to the crown, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, to the family of Spencer.

In the first ecclesiastical taxation, this benefice, in 1291, was valued at five marks, pensions being then payable to Goring priory, 60/-; to the abbess of Elneſtow, 30/-; and to the priory of Newton Longueville, 13/4.

In 1534, the rectory was assessed at £16/16/3. In Queen Elizabeth's time, the advowson was excepted out of a royal grant of the manor, etc.; but a renewal, about ten years afterwards, on a surrender of a lease made to Robert Power, of the manor, the disposal of the advowson was included in a new patent, to Richard Stonely, for twenty-one years. And the like was renewed in 1599; the reversion being bestowed on Sir John Spencer, knight; from whom it passed to the family of Compton.

The manor and advowson continuing in possession of the Comptons, Earls of Northampton, by the marriage of the daughter and heiress of Sir John Spencer, knight, until, in 1801, Spencer, Earl of Northampton, sold the estate to Robert, Lord Carrington, whose descendants still hold the rights of patronage.

Chapel close was exempted from payment of tithes before the in-

closure of this parish; and has marks of a building in it, supposed to have been a chapel.

About 230 acres of glebe land, and all tithes commuted by an allotment under an inclosure Act, and the land allotted thereupon, are exempted from payment of poor rates.

The approximate value of the living, at the present time, is £394; the net value being £100 per annum.

Rectors of Moulsoe.

NICHOLSON DE BLADINGTON, was instituted 1233, on the presentation of the prioress and convent of Goring.

THOMAS DE ESTOL resigned in 1305.

WILLIAM DE LOTEGARSHAL, instituted 7 January 1305.

JOHN DE RINGWOOD, instituted 7 January 1307.

HENRY DE WOODMANCOTE occurs in 1330 and 1346. At his death,

WILLIAM DE STAMFORD was instituted 4 July 1349. He resigned; and

WILLIAM WYTE DE CRAWMERSH was presented 15 August 1352.

WILLIAM DE MOULSHOE quitted it for Harlow, in Essex.

JOHN DE ROUCEBY, instituted 8 June 1361. On his cession,

EDMUND DE FULBECK was instituted 11 November 1361. He died; and

HENRY DE BRIDDEL was instituted 13 September 1363.

THOMAS GOLDE, instituted 23 August 1375. He died; and

JOHN MAGOT was instituted 20 September 1409; and exchanged for Keovill (Yeovil?) in Wilts, with

JOHN HOLF, 14 August 1421.

ROBERT VENT, presented 1430; he exchanged for Chigwell, in Essex, with

THOMAS PARSON, 14 December 1434.

JOHN HALBYN.

WILLIAM TINGRITH, presented 5 May 1455; he resigned, being old and infirm; and was succeeded by

MICHAEL DADDESLEY, instituted 8 September 1483, on the presentation of John Daddesley, the patronage being assigned to him for this turn, by the convent of Goring. On his death,

JOHN CROSSE was instituted 15 November 1518, on the presentation of John Mordaunt, by a grant from the priory and convent of Goring. He resigned to a kinsman,

JOHN CROSSE, M.A., instituted 18 June, 1530, on the presentation of Sir John Mordaunt. At his death,

WILLIAM HEMING, LL.B., was instituted 20 June 1533. He died; and

THOMAS COOKE was instituted in 1568, being presented by George Mordaunt.

HENRY WILCOCKS, M.A., presented and instituted 12 July 1579, by the same patron. He was buried here, 3 October 1613. His successor was

RICHARD WHITE, M.A., instituted 29 November 1613, on the presentation of Sir William Compton, and occurs rector in 1640; being succeeded by

FRANK PRESS, instituted 7 December 1640, who was also rector of Castle Ashby, where he was buried, 7 February 1663. On his sequestration,

WILLIAM WELLS succeeded. He is said to have been buried here, 2 September 1656.

JAMES JOLLIFF intruded in 1656, and held it till 1660, when he was called curate, and perhaps licensed; after whom,

FRANCIS PRESS was restored for a short time, but did not long survive; for on his death,

GEORGE GOODMAN was lawfully instituted 18 March 1662, on the presentation of James Earl of Northampton, the rightful patron. He was buried here, September 1695; and was succeeded by

ROBERT LAZONBY, presented October or November 1695, by Mary Countess Dowager of Northampton, and exchanged for St. Antholm's, London.

- JOSHUA HOTCHKIS, M.A., was instituted 2 June 1696, on the presentation of the same patron; and was buried here, 30 September 1726.
- BRETT BACKWELL, D.D., instituted 7 April 1727, on the presentation of George Earl Northampton. He died in 1755.
- JOSEPH PAYNE, brother of the Countess Dowager of Northampton, presented on the death of Backwell, and inducted 6 April 1756. He resigned in 1766, for a living in the West of England.
- JAMES GARDINER was instituted in 1766, on the same presentation. He resigned; and
- CHARLES THOMPSON, B.A., was presented by Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, and inducted 2 November 1773. He died 1787.
- GABRIEL DUFOUR, M.A., inducted 15 March 1787, on the same presentation; and was succeeded by
- THOMAS CAUTLEY, M.A. He was also vicar of Sawston, in Cambridgeshire, from 2 October 1786.
- RICHARD CAUTLEY was presented in 1831.
- WALTER DRAKE, M.A., was presented in March 1842. He died, and was buried here, 29 December 1868.
- J. STUDHOLM BROWN RIGG, M.A., was presented in 1869. He resigned; and,
- ROBERT W. RISELEY, was presented in July 1883. He died, and was buried here, 26 August 1884.
- DANIEL T. W. ELSDALE, M.A., was presented in November 1884. He resigned in 1899; and
- JOHN LITTLE STARLING was instituted January 1900.

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Moulsoe.

This ancient fabric stands on an eminence, and is composed of a nave with side aisles, a south porch, a chancel, and a west embattled tower, which contains a clock; and four bells, inscribed:

First: 1640 I K

Second: TAYLOR OXFORD 1839.

Third: W : & : J TAYLOR BELL FOUNDERS OXFORD 1839.

Fourth: W : J TAYLOR BELLFOUNDERS OXFORD & LOUGHBORO
1839.

At the angles of the north side of the tower are ancient gargoyles, and at the south-west angle is a stair turret, which has been cracked through the introduction of iron treads to the steps which have contracted and expanded. Willis supposes the building of about the close of the reign of Edward III., or the beginning of Richard II. The whole is a good specimen of the Decorated style. Some of the two and three-light windows are of very good design; there is a good four-light window at the east end of the south aisle, but much of the tracery is destroyed. The compartments of this window are filled with stained glass representing various incidents in the life of the Virgin Mary, the patron saint. The east end of the south aisle is and has always been known as the Chapel of Our Lady, or Lady Chapel, and bears substantial proof of quite as Romish doctrines having been practised therein, during a late rector's incumbency, as when it was first erected; in fact the whole interior is as ritualistic. In the south wall of this chapel, is a good trefoil-headed piscina and a small aumbry. In the east wall there is a bracket which may have been used for the support

of an image of the Virgin Mary, or more probably is the bracket upon which stood the lamp that was always kept burning; an acre of land being left for that purpose in 1549. The oak screen enclosing this chapel was presented to the church in 1886. The east window of the chancel is also of four lights, and is nearly blocked up by the unwieldy oak reredos, which bears a massive oak cross with a large image of Christ, also of large dimensions, and carved in wood. The clerestory of the nave, which appears to be modern, is lighted by four single-light windows on one side, and three on the other. The roof of the nave is coved and slated; those of the aisles are leaded; and the chancel is tiled. The archway of the porch has moulded columns. Four pointed arches on each side, with octagon pillars, divide the nave and aisles; the plaster ceiling of the nave is waggon-headed; the timber of the roofs of the aisles is not concealed; the handsomely carved oak pulpit was presented to the church, by the congregation, at the Feast, 27 August 1898; the pews are composed of deal, the rood screen is modern and of oak, likewise the rood beam and crucifix which were put up in 1874. The octagonal basin and base of the font are modern; the pedestal is that of the ancient one. The tower arch is pointed, above this is a trefoil-headed sanctus niche. The chancel has been reduced in size, the arch is pointed, and the modern ceiling is so low as to disfigure both the arch and this part of the sacred edifice.



At the east end of the north aisle of the chancel, is a gravestone of grey marble, on which are the effigies of a man in armour, in brass, with his wife; under the man, were four sons; and under the woman, six daughters (now gone). There was an inscription round the verge, which is torn off; and four coats of arms at the corners, one only remains, and this is over the head of the man. There is no tradition to whom this belongs; but by the remaining coat of arms, which is a cross between four martlets, with two roses in chief, impaling a fess between the three crescents, it is probable, it was placed here to the memory of one Routhall and his wife, whose name was Lee; and who died in the time of

Henry VIII. Thomas Routhall, whose father was, perhaps, Richard Routhall, was possessed of considerable lands in Moulsoe in 1529; which Richard, in his last will and testament, proved in 1528, appointed to be buried in St. Ann's chapel, in the church of Our Lady at Moulsoe. It is conjectured that an image of St. John stood near this tomb, as the remains of a pedestal and figure have been hewn almost even with the wall.

The east end of this north aisle is known as St. Joseph's Chapel; in the east wall is a fragment of the ancient piscina in which the priest

rinsed the chalice used for communion ; an altar is still retained here.

In the floor of the Lady Chapel is an ancient stone which has had a brass cross. On the north wall of St. Joseph's Chapel there is a mural tablet of marble, in memory of Mark Morrell, Esq., of Tickford Park ; also of his daughter, Caroline, who died in 1854, aged 15 years. On the north side of the chancel is a mural tablet inscribed to the Rev. Richard Cautley, rector of this parish for 56 years, who died in 1842, aged 79. Under the above is a smaller one inscribed : Octavia Cautley relict of the above, died Dec. 7th, 1873, ætat 95.

On the north side of the nave are memorials of William Levi, who died in 1825, aged 45 ; and of Dorothy Levi, who died in 1856, aged 85 years. A very handsome monument in brass, elaborately chased ; to the memory of Lord Carrington ; and another of alabaster ; to the memory of Lady Carrington. A beautiful, though small memorial of Italian work, in alabaster, to the memory of Lady Suffield is inserted in the wall at the west side of the north door. It depicts an angel sitting upon a rock addressing three women, with foliage in the background ; the whole is highly coloured and illuminated. There are likewise inscriptions in the church to some former rectors.

The inscription at the foot of the coloured window on the south side of the chancel reads : In memoriam Luciæ H quæ intravit in requiem Sept. viii. mdccxciv. Jesu Mercy.

A very curious hollowed stone of about two feet high stands in the baptistery. It somewhat resembles the head of an ornamented chimney, but is supposed to have been for the purpose of heating incense. It completely baffles archæologists to assign for what purpose it was manipulated.

The antique chest, with its three locks, is supposed to be of the same date as the church. The bier bears the date of 1651.

The register commences in 1560 ; but is very imperfect and illegible in some places, and several years wholly omitted. Amongst the entries are :

Two Parliament Soldiers, bur^d 1643.

In 1542, John Bryer willed a Legacy towards making a steeple at Newport Church. In 1549, an acre of land given to maintain a light in the Church, was taken away by the Crown.

On the north side of the churchyard is the family vault of the present lords of the manor. It is enclosed by stone piers bearing coats of arms and iron palisades.

Moulsoe Charities.

The free school was endowed by the will of Mary Countess Dowager of Northampton, in 1719, with £8 per annum ; and £5 given by the same benefactor to be distributed annually on St. Thomas's Day. Her ladyship, who held this manor in dower, was grandmother of Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton.

Moulsoe Rectory.

This is a handsome residence near the church, in a delightful situation, from which an extensive prospect is obtained. A wide gravel walk has been formed from the house at Tickford Park, almost to the church of Moulsoe.

The Children's Home, Moulsoe.

In 1888, Miss Mary Nixon founded and supported a children's home at Moulsoe, for eight orphans to be trained for domestic service.



From a photograph by Mr. Bartholomew, of Great Linford.

THE CHILDREN SINGING AT THE COWPER CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS,
AT OLNEY, 25 APRIL 1900.

See appendix.

BROUGHTON.

BROUGHTON, too, lies on the verge of Bedfordshire, which bounds this parish on the east; on the south and west, it is bounded by Kingston brook, better known as Broughton brook, and Milton Keynes; and on the north, by Moulsoe. Its area is 937 acres; population, 122: and rateable value £784. The farms are Lodge farm, Brook farm, and King's Head farm; and there are two small woods or spinnies known as Old Covert and New Covert.

The village is small, as may be judged from the population, but neat, and lies three miles s.s.e. from Newport Pagnell, on the road to London through Woburn.

Broughton is in the same civil and ecclesiastical jurisdiction as the preceding parishes of Moulsoe and Willen.

Manorial History of Broughton.

Broughton, at the Domesday Survey, consisted of two manors, one belonging to Walter Giffard, and the other to the Countess Judith. The former is thus described: In Brotone, Hugh holds of Walter four hides for a manor; the land is five carucates; in demesne one carucate and eight villeins, with five bordars had four carucates. There were two servants and one mill in the demesne. Three carucates of pasture, then and formerly valued at sixty shillings; and in the time of King Edward, at £4. This manor, in the Saxon times, had been holden by Oswi, a man of Alric Fitz Goding, who could sell it. This was surveyed in the old Hundred of Moslai; but the other manor, belonging to Countess Judith, niece of the Conqueror, was entered in the Hundred of Bonestou, and was holden under her, by Morcar, her subfeudatory, as one carucate, with one villein and one bordar. One carucate of pasture, valued at ten shillings; and in King Edward's days, at twenty shillings, when it was in the hands of the same tenant, who could sell it.

The subfeudatory of Giffard's manor, was unquestionably, Hugh de Bolebec, whose descendants, the Veres, Earls of Oxford, continued to hold it of the Honour of Giffard; but, before the reign of John, Bolebec had ceased to hold this estate with his own demesnes, and admitted under him another subfeudatory, who took his name from the place; the family of Broughton being lessees here in 1200. In 1314, it was returned, that Gilbert Earl of Gloucester and Hertford had died possessed, *inter al.* of two leets in Broughton; and by another inquisition, that the same Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, had died

possessed of one knight's fee, which seems to be evidence, that the estate, here described, was that which had belonged to the Countess Judith. However the fact might have been, in the Testa de Nevil it is stated, that Robert de Broughton held, in the reign of Henry III., one knight's fee here, of the Countess of Oxford, who held of the Earl of Gloucester; which earl had obtained on a partition of the Giffard lands, a moiety of the Honour of Giffard, under a grant of Richard I. Robert de Broughton was succeeded by his son Matthew; a person of those names being in possession of a knight's fee here in 1280. Matthew was succeeded by Ralph de Broughton, whose successor was Robert de Broughton; who in 1333, levied a fine of this manor to his own use, and the use of the heirs of his body.

In 1333, a fine was passed between Philip de Aylesbury and Robert son of Robert de *Brocton*, deforcient of the manor of Broughlon, near Middleton Keynes, to the use of Robert. In 1347, Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester, died possessed of this manor, as did Maud de Holland, wife of Robert de Holland in 1349. In 1387, Hugh Earl of Stafford, died possessed of rents in Broughton, Wavendon, etc. In 1397, Robert de Willoughby and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of William Latimer, died possessed, *inter al.* of view frankpledge, in Broughton. In 1399, William brother and heir of Thomas Earl of Stafford, died possessed of a leet in Broughton, Woolstone, Crawley, etc. In 1372, Ralph Earl of Stafford and Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester, died possessed, as did Edmund Earl of Stafford, of a leet here in 1403; and in 1409, Richard de St. Maur (or Seymour) and Mary his wife, are said to have died possessed of Broughton manor. By an escheat in 1410, John Aylesbury, chivalier, was returned to have died possessed of the manors of Milton Keynes and Broughton. In 1416, Sir Thomas Green died possessed of a suit of court in Broughton; and in 1418, Sir Thomas Aylesbury died possessed of the manors of Middleton Keynes, Bradwell, Broughton near Moulsoe, and Newport mill

In 1431, Thomas Nevil, Lord Latimer, died possessed of the leets of Crawley and Broughton; of both which manors, Sir Thomas Lovell, died possessed in 1455, when the latter was denominated Broughton-Lovell. In 1460, John de Broughton presented to the church, and so continued to do till 1481; and in 1462, a grant was made to Richard Middleton, of the manors of Great Linford and Broughton. In 1505, Sir Robert Broughton, by will bequeathed this manor of Broughton to his brother Edward, for life. In 1529, John Broughton died possessed of the manor of Broughton, leaving two daughters, Anne and Catherine. The first was married to William Lord Howard of Roworth, and had issue, a daughter, Agnes, who became wife of William Pawlett, Lord St. John, son and heir apparent to the Most Honourable John Lord Marquess of Winchester, His Lordship, and the Lady Agnes, his wife, conveyed the manors of Broughton and Woolstone Parva, 2 January 1572, for about £1,710 to Thomas Duncumbe, by whom the estate was settled on his son Francis, who was a knight; and married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Porter, of Coventry; and whose

son and heir, Thomas Duncumbe, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Thomas Draper, of Islington, died 12 May 1632, leaving six children, of whom Thomas, his son and heir, was then fourteen years of age; and the names of his other children being Nicholas, Francis, Sarah, Mary and Jane; and by inquisition, taken in the Court of Wards, he was returned to have died possessed of the manor of Broughton, and of the advowson of the church, holden as one knight's fee of the Earl of Oxford, who was the chief lord; and therefore the ward was in the king's hands, by reason of minority. He was also, at the time of his death, possessed of the manor of Moulsoe, a messuage, etc., in Broughton, with fifty-two acres of land in Broughton and Moulsoe, called Howe Croft held of the manor of Cranfield, at a rent of three shillings and fourpence. In Trinity Term next following, 1572, Sir William Paulett, Lord St. John, and Lady Agnes, levied a fine of the manors of Broughton and Little Woolstone, with divers lands in Broughton, Great and Little Woolstone, etc., and the advowson of Broughton, to the use of the aforesaid Thomas Duncumbe; and in Michelmas Term following, a second fine was levied from Sir Humphrey Stafford, of Kirkby, Northamptonshire, of the manor of Broughton, and lands here and in Moulsoe (dated 2 January, in the same year, as was Lord St. John's conveyance, for the amount is not specified) in corroboration of the above conveyance, and to relinquish and assign all the interest of Sir Humphrey Stafford; and thus this manor and advowson of Broughton continued in the family of Broughton from 1573 to 1746, when, on the decease of the last male heir of the family, Francis Duncumbe, 16 March 1746-7, this estate, *inter al.* passed by his will, to his nephew, John Robinson, of Crawley, in Northamptonshire, by Anne his only sister, wife of the said John Robinson; who, in 1748, conveyed all their right and title therein, for the consideration of about £21,300 to Barnabas Backwell, of Tyringham, M.P. for Bishop's Castle, Herefordshire; who died possessed of this manor, etc., in 1754, and was succeeded by his son, William Backwell, who died in 1770, leaving issue by his wife, one son, Tyringham Backwell, who died a bachelor in October 1777; and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to William Praed, who, in her right, became possessed of the said manor. The present lord of the manor is Roger Giffard William Tyringham. There are no remains of the ancient manor house.

Ecclesiastical History of Broughton.

The advowson was always appendant to the manor. By an Act of Parliament, passed in 1748, a yearly payment was allotted to the rector, in lieu of tithes; the glebe consisting of about twelve acres of pasture.

A terrier, made by Andrew Bing, rector, dated 25 July 1605, runs thus: "The site of the parsonage contains, by estimation, 1 acre, within which are contained a little orchard, hedged, containing 1 rood, and a little pigtle, containing 1 rood. Item, 10½ roods of meadow, 7 of which lie in the Great Mead; 1 acre of meadow leys, lying in Moulsoe Crouch Leys, commonly called Mead Leys; and 18 acres of arable,

lying in the three several fields, viz., in Fen Field $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in Middle Field 7 acres, in Cocksbrish Field $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres."

The living, at the present time, is worth £123 per annum.

Rectors of Broughton.

NICHOLSON DE LEGA, died 1261.

ROBERT DE MASSINGTON, presented 1261, by the prior and convent of Cawdwell ; as was

THOMAS DE MASSINGTON, 12 October 1269, and

BENEDICT DE FERRIBY, 1294.

RICHARD FITZ-ALLAN, presented 14 January by the dean and chapter of Lincoln ; as was

NICHOLSON DE LANGTOFT, 16 November 1319, and

RICHARD DE CROFT was presented 8 August 1324.

RICHARD DE STENE, presented 4 December 1330.

OLIVER MASSINGHAM resigned 1388 ; and was succeeded by

JOHN LATHBURY, presented by John Broughton, 19 March 1388. He occurs in 1404 and 1406.

THOMAS ALAYN,, resigned 1460

WALTER STRANGE, instituted 2 August 1460.

JOHN GYRTIN, instituted 21 October 1462.

HENRY WELD, presented 2 October 1467.

JOHN BENNET, presented 4 October 1471.

JOHN STANWAY, presented 11 November 1474

WILLIAM ROO, presented 29 June 1481.

JOHN BROUGHTON, presented 23 March 1498.

RICHARD PRYCH, presented 12 October 1509 by the king, by reason of John Broughton's minority.

ROBERT LEYFF, presented 11 June 1511, by Sir John Broughton, knt. He was also rector of Chenies ; and died in 1526.

THOMAS BROOKE succeeded in 1527. On his resignation,

RALPH COOPER was presented by Anne Broughton, 29 July 1529. He died ; and

NICHOLSON HAY was presented by the king 5 June 1540. He died ; and

JOHN MANN, L.L.B., was instituted 3 March 1552, by the Marquis of Winchester.

On his resignation, he was succeeded by

ANTHONY EVANS, vicar of Upper Winchendon, was presented 26 July 1559, by the same patron. He resigned ; and

THOMAS WADE was presented by Sir William Pawlet, knight, 7 February 1560. He died ; and

HUMPHREY TAYLOR was instituted 22 November 1567, on the presentation of Elizabeth Scudamore, Charles Willoughby, and Thomas Scudamore. He died ; and was succeeded by

THOMAS KENT, who was presented 11 October 1582, by Thomas Duncombe. He died, and was buried here 26 October 1595.

THOMAS JOHNSON KENT was presented 14 January 1595, by Francis Duncombe.

ANDREW BING, M.A. presented 1599 by the Lord Chancellor, and inducted 25th June 1600. In 1608 he was appointed archdeacon of Norwich ; also rector of East Dereham and Winterton in Norfolk. He resigned, and was succeeded by

ROWLAND RADBURNE, inducted 19th September 1618 and was buried here.

WILLIAM DUDLEY, inducted 16 November 1632. He was expelled in 1648 ; and WILLIAM JOLE, of Aspley, intruding, styled himself rector in 1655 ; but in 1660, was displaced ; and

WILLIAM DUDLEY restored, who died rector, and was buried here. He married Mrs. Sarah Sadler, of Aspley Guise, 11 November 1656, by whom he had a daughter, Frances, baptised 28 September 1657, and from whom Thomas Norcliffe of Aspley, was descended.

ALEXANDER BICKERTON, M.A., presented by Francis Duncombe, 17 August 1677.

He rebuilt the parsonage house, but died the same year, and was buried at Moulsoe.

ADAM BOOKER, B.A., presented by the same patron, and instituted 7 February 1678.

He was also rector of Wavendon; and was buried here.

HENRY VOYCE, M.A., presented by Francis Duncombe. He died in 1745-6.

PHILIP BARTON, M.A., was presented by Francis Duncombe, "whose niece he married" says Cole in his MSS. "and was my most worthy and much esteemed schoolfellow and friend." He was inducted 13 March 1745-6; and was also rector of Sherington, on the cession of his father, 1748.

JOHN WYNTER, M.A., admitted 31 July 1786. He resigned; and

WILLIAM SMITH, M.A., was inducted 21 January 1790, on the presentation of Sarah Backwell.

WILLIAM SMITH, jun., M.A., presented in 1821, by William Praed, Esq., of Tyringham.

JOHN WILLIAM IRVING, M.A., was presented in 1854. He died 20 September 1893, aged 85 years, and had been 50 years curate and rector of Broughton.

C. C. LUXMORE was presented in 1893. He resigned; and

W. H. STARLING was presented in 1900.

The Church of St. Lawrence, Broughton.

Consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, and west tower, and is principally very Early Decorated, with good two and three-light windows—some of which are Perpendicular insertions. The tower is embattled, and contains a clock and five bells inscribed:

First: 1655 CHAUDLER MADE ME.

Second: SANCTE CRISTINE ORA PRO NOBIS.

Third: GOD SAVE OVR KING 1622 I K E N.

Fourth: IN MULTIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA JOHANNIS.

Fifth: GOD SAVE THE KING 1635 (The five is retrograde).

The bells are rung by means of a mechanical arrangement.

At the north-east angle of the nave is a good staircase turret. The nave and chancel are covered with lead; the porch with tiles. The nave is wainscotted and seated with old oak benches; the pulpit and eagle lectern are of oak; the open timber roof is of oak; the font is a modern stone basin on a round pedestal surrounded by slender pillars. The chancel arch is acutely pointed, the piers on each side having carved corbals.

On either side of it is a desk, to which books are fastened with a chain; the book on the left side is *A Defence of the Apologie of the Church of England, Anno 1567*; that on the right is *Erasmus's Commentary, and Jewells, &c.* These books were placed in the church in 1666.

The east coloured window is of three lights. On the south side of the chancel is a memorial window of stained glass, representing Our Saviour raising Lazarus from the dead. The inscription is "In memory of Myra Ann, wife of J. W. Irving, rector of this parish, who died 6th April, 1852." The memorial window on the north side of the chancel is inscribed: In memory of John Marsh of Lidgate Hall, Sheffield, Esq., died 22 April 1858; also Ann Marsh, his wife, died 23 March 1858. The chancel roof is a modern one of oak.

The memorial windows in the nave are inscribed as follows : that at the east end on the north side is "This window put up by friends and neighbours to the memory of Mr. W. Ridgway, farmer, who fell asleep Easter Day 1866." The east window on the south side of the nave takes three subjects, one for each light, the centre is the figure of Christ ; that on the left is Bishop Patterson, lying in a native canoe ; whilst the one on the right is Bishop Hannington, dressed in white, with book in hand, and looking upwards. Its inscription reads "John Coleridge Patterson, Missionary Bishop of the Melanesian Isles, entered into rest Sepr. xx. mdccclxxi. James Hannington, Missionary Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, entered into rest Oct. xxii. mdccclxxv. In commemoration of the centenary of the Colonial Episcopate, Aug. xii. mdccclxxxvii. This window is offered to the glory of God by the rector of this church." The centre window on the south is "In memory of Mary Clarkson, widow of the Revnd. Clarkson, vicar of Roxton-cum-Barford Magna, Beds, obt. Novbr. 17th 1864, æt. 69."

Within the communion rails, on the south wall, are two inscriptions, all that remain of the monumental brasses inscribed to John de Broughton, who died in 1403, and Agnes his wife, who died in 1399.

There are several memorials of the Duncombe family, among which is one of Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Anthony Chester, Bart., of Chicheley, and wife of Francis Duncombe, Esq., of this place. This lady died in 1686.

At the west end of the church, is the following table of benefactions :

1673. Thomas Duncumbe, Esq., gave the rents and profits of all his lands in Loughton, in the County of Bucks, for the purpose as hereafter expressed ; 20/- to be yearly laid out in repairing the Church ; and when the Church shall want whiting, painting, and adorning, the same shall be done at any time (for ever) out of the rests of the rents and profits ; and that in the mean time, all the rest of the rents, &c., above 20/- aforesaid, shall be yearly expended by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in providing one load of wood for their aged and truly needy poor inhabitant, through sickness, lameness, or by reason of any great charge of children ; or for providing for them any physical or surgical helps ; or towards the marriages of any of their daughters ; or the putting out of any of their sons or daughters apprentices ; so that they can read, and say the Lord's Prayer, the Belief, and the Ten Commandments, and are of honest and civil behaviour ; and hereby strictly enjoined to be observed for ever, that no child or children shall have any benefit from this gift that are brought up in ignorance.

1716. Francis Duncumbe, Esq., gave the rents and profits of the Fountain Inn, in Loughton aforesaid, with the appurtenances thereto belong, to be applied in the following manner :—50s. per ann. for the teaching to read, and saying the Church Catechism, *six children of the poorest inhabitants of this Parish* : 52s. per ann. to the Parish-Church Clerk, for his care in cleaning and sweeping the church, the seats, and the paths in the church-yard. 20s. per ann. to be laid out with the like sum given by his father, Thomas Duncumbe, Esq., towards repairing and keeping dry the said Church, and the windows thereof ; and 10s. per ann. in firewood, given to poor householders in such manner as directed by his father's Will.

At the present time, in lieu of wood, each widow receives a ton of coal, and each cottager, half a ton, per annum.

This sacred edifice has, upon its walls, the finest frescoes in the

Hundreds. They had been covered and were unknown until 1849, when they were discovered and carefully preserved. The subjects on the north wall are Our Saviour, after His crucifixion, supported on the knees of his virgin mother; and the Last judgment. On the south wall is a figure, supposed to be St. Dunstan, with a female saint by his side holding a curiously shaped cross in her right hand, and probably a book in her left; below this are the implements of a smithy—anvil, hammers, pincers, horseshoes, etc. Over the south door is a figure of St. George, on horseback, destroying the dragon, of considerably later date. The others are supposed to be of the 14th century.

The cruciferous nimbus in the picture on the north wall determined the mutilated figure to be that of Our Lord, though in some other respects it disagrees with the conventional representations of the Passion. Thus, some of the limbs are stripped of their flesh to the very bones, and even joints are lopped off; and a figure standing by pierces the eyes with a sharp pioned instrument like a pair of compasses. Whilst this painting was being unveiled, so to speak, it was feared that a foot of the Saviour had been accidentally scraped off, but further disclosure showed the missing foot in a man's hand. The scripture says "A bone of Him shall not be broken." The foot has been amputated at the ankle joint. The five wounds of the Saviour seem to be alluded to. The costumes are curious, and the floral border is exceedingly simple and effective.

The last judgement is a picture which might have adorned Danté's *Inferno*, so vivid and realistic is its description. On one side are the jaws of hell. In the centre are the scales on which a soul is being weighed, and one cannot help noticing the grotesque action of the Virgin Mary on the one hand, in raising the end of the scales, so that the soul which is in the balance and is found wanting may pass muster at the hands of the recording angel, while at the same time, with her right hand the Virgin is endeavouring to hide with her cloak the souls that trust in her shelter.

But for the nimbus of the female figure, and the cross, in the other, it might be supposed that it represented the temptation of St. Dunstan; and perhaps it is so. It is difficult to understand what connection there can be between the blacksmith's tools and the picture above. The female saint may be Elfrida, the unlawful wife of King Edgar, or Ethelfleda, to whom Dunstan, the black letter saint, owed so much.

There are likewise several texts of scripture on the walls of the same age as the ancient pictures.

In the churchyard is an ancient stone-coped coffin lid, and an antiquated sundial bearing the date 1657, and inscribed H. Sutton, fecit, which has for its pedestal the ancient and small font which is decorated around its octagonal base with coats of arms. It is very probable that the dial was brought from the manor house.

The register dates from the year 1720.

MILTON KEYNES.

MILTON, or more properly Middleton Keynes, has its affix from the ancient family of the Keynes, who possessed the manor. Its area is 1,909 acres, with a population of 207 souls. The parish is bounded on the north-east, by Moulsoe and Broughton; on the east, by Wavendon; on the south, by Walton; on the south-west, by the river Lovat and Woughton-on-the-Green; and on the west, by the river Lovat, Great Woolstone, Little Woolstone, and Willen.

The village is seated $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south, from Newport Pagnell; and a like distance north, from Fenny Stratford.

Milton Keynes is in the petty sessional division, union, and county court district of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery of Bletchley; archdeaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

In a field west of the church are the remains of a moat, and traces of fish-ponds—probably the site of the mansion of the ancient lords of Milton Keynes.

Manorial History of Milton Keynes.

In Domesday Book, it is recorded, that Walter Giffard held in Middleton, in Moslai Hundred, half a hide of land. There was one plough kept, but not found there at the survey; and one carucate of pasture. It was rated at four shillings; but in the time of Edward, at ten shillings. This land, Oswi, a man of Alric, held and could sell it.

William Fitz Ausculf held, and Osbert under him, one hide. There was one carucate of land, and one plough; one villein, five bordars; and one servant; with one carucate of pasture. It was valued at five shillings; when he first held it, twenty shillings; and the same in Edward's days. This land, Sauuold, a man of Wluuard, cilt, had holden, and could sell it.

Godric, or Godricus Cratel, held of the king eight hides and a half, for his manor in Middleton. There were ten carucates of land; in the demesne, two carucates and a half; and another half may be added. There were eighteen villeins, with six bordars, having eight carucates. There were six servants, and one mill of six shillings and eightpence rent; and eight carucates of pasture. It was altogether rated, and had been, at 100 shillings; but in the time of Edward, at £8. This manor, Queen Edith held.

It is probable that Milton Keynes formed part of the royal demesnes of Edward the Confessor; for it thus appears, by Domesday Book,

that Edith, his queen, held the greatest part of it in dower. This however, was forfeited to the Conqueror, after the battle of Hastings, and was given by him to Godric Cratel, who does not seem to have possessed any other lands than his manor of eight hides and a half in this place. It is not discovered, respecting the half hide here belonging to Walter Giffard, which was holden by a feudatory tenant named Hugh, and the hide of William Fitz Ausculf, the lord of Newport, holden under him by Osbert, what became of the possession of these two small parcels of land ; but it appears, from the inquisitions taken after the death of the possessors of the Honour of Giffard, that a court leet of that honour extended its jurisdiction into Milton Keynes up to a very late period.

The land of Godric Cratel is not to be traced to its several possessors during the reigns of William II., Henry I., and Stephen ; but in the time of the last, it was evidently in a family of the name of Bereville ; for Henry II., on his accession to the throne, gave this manor with Amabell de Bereville, the daughter and heir of the former owner, to Hugh de Keynes, or Cahines, whose family had rendered eminent services to the Empress Maud in the civil wars between that princess and Stephen, particularly at the Battle of Lincoln, in 1141, where one of them was the principal cause of Stephen having been taken prisoner by the Earl of Gloucester.

Among the returns of knight's fees made to Henry II., on the marriage of his daughter, in 1165, Hugh de Keynes states Milton to consist of two parts (that is, two third parts) of a knight's fee, and that he held it by the gift of the king, who had bestowed it upon him, together with his wife, as her right and inheritance. He appears, from the several scutages entered on the Pipe Rolls, to have holden it till near the reign of John, about which time he died ; and it is conjectured that his wife survived him ; for in 1222, Lucas de Keynes, his son, did homage for his manor, and paid his reliefs, as for lands which came to him by inheritance from his mother, Amabell de Bereville, when he became the lord of Milton, which, from his family, obtained the appellative name of Keynes, to distinguish it from two other places of similar name, in the county of Bedford, not far from this neighbourhood ; which belonged to the families of Ernys and Bryant, were afterwards called Milton Ernest and Milton Bryant.

In 1239, a fine was levied between William, son of Hugh (Keynes), petent, and Ralph le Page, and Sibilla his wife, tenant, of lands in Milton, to the use of William ; and in the same year, another fine, between Thomas, son of Hamon Malvoisin, querent, and Luke de Keynes, and Sibilla his daughter, and Amicia de Hereford, deforcients, of rents in Middleton, whose right in the premises the said Thomas released to Sibilla and her heirs ; and in 1245, another fine was levied between Roger Mauvesyn (Malvoisin), querent, and Luke de Keynes, deforcient, for lands in Middleton, to the use of Luke.

Lucas de Keynes held this manor until his death, in 1262 ; and John de Keynes, son and heir of Lucas, discharged his relief, and did homage for this manor in the same year in which his father died, and was

the third lord of Middleton Keynes of this family.

In 1278, a fine was levied between Robert de Keynes, querent, and John de Keynes, deforciant, of the manor of Middleton Keynes, to the use of Robert, who granted the said manor to John and Maud, for their lives. In 1283, John de Keynes is said to have died possessed of the manor of Middleton Keynes. In 1349, Philip de Aylesbury appears to have died possessed of Middleton Keynes manor.

In 1371, the Earl of Oxford died possessed of Calverton church and of knight's fees in Great Linford, Woolstone, Crawley, Wavendon, Broughton, and Milton.

In 1372, Ralph Earl of Stafford, and Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester, are said to have died possessed inter alia, of knight's fees in Milton, Broughton, etc. In 1387, Hugh Earl of Stafford, likewise died possessed, inter alia, of leets in Broughton, Milton, etc. In 1399, William, brother and heir of Thomas Earl of Stafford, also died possessed, inter alia, of leets in Broughton, Woolstone, Milton, etc.; and in 1403 Edmund Earl of Stafford is presumed to have died possessed, inter alia, of a leet in Milton.

In 1409, Roger de St. Maur, and Mary his wife, are said to have died possessed, inter alia, of an estate in Milton.

In 1410, Sir John de Aylesbury, knight, appears to have died possessed, inter alia, of the manor of Middleton Keynes; as did also his son, Thomas de Aylesbury, in 1418; and in 1419, Catherine, the wife of Thomas Aylesbury, had the manor of Middleton Keynes assigned in her dower. In 1424, Hugh, son and heir of John, son and heir of John de Aylesbury, is said to have died possessed of this manor. In 1429, Margery, wife of John Shelton, likewise died possessed of a third part of Middleton Keynes manor; and in 1437, Catherine wife of Sir Thomas de Aylesbury, knight, seems to have been possessed, inter alia, of another third part of the said manor.

The manor continued, during three generations, in her son Thomas Aylesbury, grandson of John Aylesbury, and great grandson of Thomas Aylesbury; who leaving only daughters on his decease, in the reign of Henry VI., it was, by inquisition, found, in 1439, to descend to Humphrey Stafford (who was slain by Jack Cade, in 1450) and Thomas Chaworth, knights, in right of their wives, Eleanor and Elizabeth, daughters and heirs of Thomas Aylesbury, aforesaid; and so afterwards, upon a division of lands, was allotted as Stafford's inheritance, who had here, for some generations, a seat and manor house, which was standing in the last century; mention being made in the parish register, of the interment of Ralph Stafford, 13 June 1630.

The same inquisition sets forth, that Sir Humphrey Stafford, knight, has the right of presenting to Milton, jure hereditario Alianora uxore ejus, being one of the daughters and heirs of Sir Thomas Aylesbury, knight, deceased; and that Sir Thomas Chaworth, knight, has the next turn, by marrying another daughter of Sir Thomas Aylesbury.

In 1473, a fine was levied between John Graye, Roger Hebbes, and Gilbert Ippeswelle, querents, and John Berd, and Alice his wife, de-

forcients, of messuages and lands in Middleton Keynes, to the use of John Graye.

In 1489, Henry VII., granted to Sir Edward Poynings, knight, inter alia, the manor of Middleton Keynes, the advowson of the church, all those lands and tenements called Bordes, and that manor called Stafford's manor, alias Bury Bassets, late belonging to Humphrey Stafford, attainted, habendum to him and the male heirs of his body for ever, from 21 August 1486.

In 1502, a fine was levied between Thomas Babington, Robert Bru-denell, Thomas Jakes, and Robert Nevill, claimants, and John Ormonde, and Joane his wife, of a moiety of the advowson of the church of Middleton Keynes.

In 1546, Humphrey Stafford, son and heir of Sir Humphrey Stafford, knight, who died 22 September, had, inter alia, Milton Keynes.

In 1565, a grant was made to Thomas Sidney and Nicholas Haliwell, of a cottage next to Milton Keynes church yard, belonging to St. Alban's monastery.

It seems, likewise, that about 1573, John Stafford was found possessed of Milton or Middleton Keynes manor.

By an inquisition, taken 17 July 1638, it appears that William Stafford died, 4 July 1637; and had issue Edward Stafford, who died under age, 8 May 1638, possessed of the manor of Milton, alias Middleton Keynes; leaving issue, Charles his son and heir, then thirteen years and seven months old; and another son named William.

Sir Thomas Aylesbury had a son named John, who also had a son named Hugh, who died without issue, in 1423; whereupon his aunts became his heirs, viz: Isabella, wife to Sir Thomas Chaworth; and Eleanor, wife of Humphrey Stafford of Grafton.

Sir William Chaworth had a daughter named Joane, wife to John Ormond, who left three daughters and heirs, viz: Elizabeth, married to Sir Anthony Babynton; Anne, married to William Mering, who died without issue; and Joane, first, to Thomas Denton, or Denham, of Eythorp, in this county; and afterwards to . . . Fitzwilliam.

From the Staffords, after about two hundred and fifty years' possession, it came into the family of Finch, Earls of Nottingham; and was purchased, in 1678, by Heneage Baron Finch, of Daventry, afterwards created Earl of Nottingham, Lord High Chancellor of England, and his son Daniel (afterwards Earl of Nottingham), who was joint purchasers; from whom it descended to the Earls of Winchelsea and Nottingham, K.G.; at whose death, this estate passed, under the provisions of his lordship's will, together with all his estates in this county, to his natural son, George Finch, whose descendants still retain possession.

Ecclesiastical History of Milton Keynes.

The advowson and right of patronage appears to have passed with the possession of the principal estate; and in 1605, Sir William Stafford, Mr. Denham and Mr. Babington, were returned to be patrons of the living. Denham and Babington had derived their titles from Chaworth, whose

family had been founders of a chantry chapel annexed to this church, in the reign of Henry VI., for the celebration of masses for the souls of their ancestors, the Aylesburys; but the edifice was, in Elizabeth's reign converted into a school; and the right of presentation having been sold to John Nurse, was, by him, conveyed to Ralph Smith, the elder; by whose son, or representatives, it was transferred to the Earl of Nottingham, and thus re-united to the possessor of the estate.

The valor of the rectory, in 1524, was stated at £20 there being then 31 families and 71 inhabitants, and was rated to the land tax at £331/14/6, on a return made to the bishop of Lincoln.

The present approximate value of the living is £419, and the real net value is £314 per annum.

Rectors of Milton Keynes.

EDMUND DE HAMDEN, is first discovered by Willis.

WALTER DE KEYNES occurs rector about 1291. He died in 1330, and probably built the chancel; there being, until very recently, his arms emblazoned in the east window, viz. Barry of six, Vaire and Arg. At his death,

PETER DE WALLINGFORD was instituted 3 December 1330, on the presentation of Sir Philip de Aylesbury. He died; and

EDMUND, or EGIDIUS DE HAMDEN was instituted 11 January 1337, on the presentation of Sir Philip de Aylesbury. He was dispensed with, *per triennium*, by the bishop of Lincoln.

RICHARD DE NOWERS was instituted 17 August 1348, on the death of Egidius Hamden. He died; and

WILLIAM DE TOURS was instituted 4 September 1349, on the presentation of the king, on account of the minority of Thomas Aylesbury. At his death,

ROGER DE STORTFORD was instituted 2 October 1364, on the presentation of John de Aylesbury. He was succeeded by

JOHN EYRE, alias MEGIN, instituted 4 September 1404, on the presentation of John de Aylesbury. He died rector in 1423.

ADAM BABYNTON, presbyter, was instituted 30 April 1423, on the death of Megin on the presentation of Sir Thomas Chaworth, and Isabella his wife, and Humphrey Stafford, and Eleanor his wife, daughters and heirs of Sir Thomas Aylesbury. He died 8 November 1426; and was buried in the chancel.

JOHN DALTON succeeded in 1427. After his death,

WILLIAM BALLARD was instituted 3 October 1439, on the presentation of Sir Humphrey Statford, who was returned to have an alternate right of presentation with Sir Thomas Chaworth, in right of their respective wives. He resigned in 1441, to

JOHN SAUNDERS, who was instituted 27 November 1441, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Chaworth, in exchange with Ballard, for the rectory of Swynarton in the Diocese of Litchfield. He did not hold it for long; for

LAWRENCE PYPPYNGTON was instituted 10 March 1444, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Chaworth, in right of his wife. He was rector in 1477; and was succeeded by

THOMAS ROGERS, but his institution is not in the Lincoln Registers. At his death, CHRISTOPHER CHYSINAL, or CHERRINAL, was instituted 3 December 1501, on the presentation of Edmund Lord Grey de Wilton.

WILLIAM PAULLEN, or POLLON, was instituted 14 January 1510, on the presentation of Sir Edward Poynings, knight, who was returned to be patron in 1523.

JOHN SMITH, B.D., was instituted 11 March 1539, on the presentation of William Gouson and Richard Butler, *pro hac vice*, concessione Johannæ Fitzwilliam.

JOHN SAUNDERSON was instituted 18 February 1549, on the death of John Smith, on the presentation of the queen. He occurs rector in 1556.

- FRANCIS BABINGTON was instituted about 1559 or 1560. He was rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, and was compelled to go beyond the seas, being a Roman Catholic. He was also rector of Adstock; and quitted this living in 1565.
- HUGH CHARNOCK, B.A., instituted, on the deprivation of Babington, in 1565, on the presentation of Humphrey Stafford. He was buried here 20 March 1584.
- RALPH SMITH, B.D., instituted 26 August 1585, on the presentation of John Nurse, George Mace, and Michael Colles, by grant of the advowson for this turn, from the patron. He was buried here 31 May 1638; and was succeeded by his son
- RALPH SMITH, S.T.P., instituted 2 June 1638, on the presentation of Martha Smith, widow (his mother), by reason of the right of patronage granted to her late husband and herself, divisum et conjunctim, by John Nurse, the patron; and was buried here 3 March 1656.
- LEWIS ATTERBURY, LL.D., succeeded in 1657, and took out the king's title 14 December 1660. He died in December 1693, being drowned at Newport Pagnell, in returning from London, whither he had gone to attend law-suits, and was buried at Middleton. He was a prebendary of Lincoln, and the author of "Babylon's Downfall," and several other published sermons. His son, Francis, born here in 1662, was the celebrated bishop of Rochester. This prelate, who was possessed of uncommon abilities, held the deanery of Winchester with the see of Rochester, and was in great favour with queen Anne. When king George I., succeeded to the throne, he received some personal marks of disrespect, and entered into a violent opposition to the court, both in and out of parliament. He became a troublesome antagonist to the government; and in 1722 he was accused of a treasonable correspondence with a view to the restoration of the Stuarts. A special act of parliament was passed in 1723, to meet this case, and within a month of its becoming law, the bishop was tried, condemned, and sentenced to perpetual exile; or, in other words, banished the realm. He resided principally at Paris, until his death, which occurred there in 1732, when he was 69 years of age. His remains were brought to England, and interred privately in a vault which he had prepared before his banishment, in Westminster Abbey.
- WILLIAM WOOTTON, or WOTTON, B.D., was instituted 14 December 1692, and inducted 20 January 1693, on the presentation of Daniel Earl of Nottingham. He suffered under the satirical pen of Swift, in the Battle of the Books, and Tale of a Tub; who seems to have been a partisan in the politics of his time, and is supposed to have been not generally esteemed for his conduct. He was a learned critic and antiquary. His "Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning" was written at Milton, in 1694; and he was also the author of the "History of Rome, from the Death of Antoninus Pius, to the Death of Severus Alexander;" "An Abstract of Agostin Scilla's Book concerning Marine Bodies found Petrified in several places at Land," in the Philosophical Transactions, 1695; and several other papers, discourses, sermons, &c. He retired into Wales in 1714, and there assisted Browne Willis in compiling his accounts of the cathedral church of St. David's, in 1717, and of Llandaff, in 1719. Dr. Wootton became a prebend of Salisbury in 1705. He died at the house of his daughter's husband Rev. W. Clarke, at Buckstead, in Sussex, and was buried there.
- WILLIAM EDWARDS, S.T.P., instituted 28 April 1727, on the presentation of Daniel Earl of Nottingham. At his decease,
- JOSEPH DRAKE, M.A., was inducted 29 October 1744, and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM HARDY, M.A., instituted 23 April 1752, on the presentation of Daniel Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, but died before he had taken possession.
- JOHN LOWTH, M.A., inducted 16 March 1753, on the presentation of Daniel Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. He died 4 January 1761, and was buried here; being succeeded by
- HENEAGE DERING, D.D., inducted 29 May 1761, on the presentation of Daniel, Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. He died in June 1802, aged 84, and was buried here.
- LAMBTON LORAIN, LL.B., was inducted 8 November 1802, on the presentation of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. He died in 1821; and was succeeded by

EDWARD JONES, M.A., who was instituted in August 1821, on the presentation of George, Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, K.G. He died July 19, 1857; and JOHN NEALE DALTON was instituted. At his death, he was succeeded by THE HON. WINGFIELD STRATFORD TWISLETON WYKEHAM-FIENNES, M.A., who was presented in 1880.

All Saints' Church, Milton Keynes.

This is a handsome edifice, and a very beautiful specimen of Decorated Gothic, without much mixture of other styles. It has been pronounced a gem of middle pointed architecture, and a perfect model of a country parish church. It appears to have been built in the early part of the reign of Edward III. Lipscomb thinks it probable that the chancel was built by Walter de Keynes, who was rector of the parish from about 1291 to his death in 1330, "there being, until very recently," he says, "his arms emblazoned in the east window." The church consists of a nave, chancel with north aisle or chapel, south porch, and a tower on the north side, in the middle, between the aisles of the chancel and nave. The windows are mostly of three lights. The buttresses are in two stages, many of which have canopies and richly crocketed pinnacles. The porch is one of the most striking parts of the church. The inner doorway has rich hanging tracery, and on the flat space between the arch and drip moulding, is the ball-flower, connected with a sort of tendril. The sides of the porch are open, and divided into three compartments by circular shafts, above which is open tracery. The tower is embattled, and has a fine three-light window on the north side, and contains five bells, inscribed:

First: NEWCOME MADE ME 1614.

Second: ANTHONY CHAUDLER MADE ME 1675.

Third: RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1704.

Fourth: RECAST BY GILLETT, JUNE 1887.

Sanctus: Uninscribed.

There is a tradition that two bells originally belonging to the tower, lie buried in what was once the moat of the old manor house at the back of the church. The bells were rehung in 1887.

The upper portion and west front of the tower are modern. At the west end of the nave is a three-light window containing stained glass in memory of George Payne, who died on the 10th of January 1883. The north aisle contains a piscina, which proves it to have been a chantry chapel; the same proof is visible as regards the chapel on the north side of the chancel. The chancel arch is pointed, and in fine proportion, with clustered columns. The benches are deal, the font has its basin ornamented with slender pillars, and the pulpit is circular, and of stone. The chancel is large, and the sedilia and piscina in the south wall are very fine, having detached shafts and rich open tracery in the heads. The east window is of three lights. The two arches dividing the chancel from its aisle or side chapel rest upon a circular pier with a fine moulded capital and base. There is a cinquefoil-headed piscina and an elegant canopied niche in this chapel; and it is lighted

by one, two and three-light windows. Here too (in the chapel) are two very remarkable lynchoscopic windows. Indeed this church is possessed of a great variety of rich detail, all of which are uncommon.

The communion plate, a flagon and paten, were presented by Mr. Smith.

Upon a desk attached to the north pier of the chancel arch is a chained bible bearing the date of 1613. In the south wall of the tower is a cinque-foil headed piscina, which shows that it was once used as a chantry chapel. A fragment of the holy-water stoupe is still near the east side of the south door of the nave.

On a tablet at the east end of the chapel, is ;

By an Indenture and Bargain and Sale, enrolled in Chancery, dated 13th June, 36 Car. 2, the Earl of Nottingham, for the consideration therein mentioned, granted unto certain Persons therein named, an annual Fee-farm Rent in Pension of Two Pounds out of the Rectory of Astwood, Co. Bucks, in lieu of sixteen Shillings a-year chargeable out of the manor of Milton, otherwise Middleton Keynes, in trust for the Poor of this Parish, in like manner as the said sixteen shillings a-year was or ought to have been disposed of, which said annual rent or pension is vested in the Reverend Lambton Loraine, Rector, William Head, William Ratcliffe, Rowland Alston Kent, Samuel Pinkard, Thomas Poulter, and Gilbert Pickering, inhabitants of this Parish, and their Heirs and Assigns, upon the Trusts and for the purposes aforesaid.

Extracted by us, 30 Sept. 1819,

LAMBTON LORAINÉ, Rector,
WILLIAM HEAD, Churchwarden.

In the east window of the chancel, and other parts of the church, were these arms :

1. Barry of six, Vaire and Arg. *Keynes*. 2. Gu. ten billets Or. *Cowdrey*. 3. Arg. a fess between two chevrons Gu. *Chaworth*. 4. Or. three chevrons Gu. *Clare* (or *Amandeville*?) 5. Arg. a lion rampant Gu. *Chetwode*. 6. Or. two lions passant Az. *Somery*. 7. A lion rampant Gu. within a bordure bezantè. *Earl of Cornwall*.

Upon the south wall of the chancel has been placed the brass of Adam Babyngton, rector. He had before been rector of Coveney, in the Isle of Ely, to which he was presented 4 August 1408. The stone that originally bore the effigy and inscription, was of bluish marble and laid in the centre of the chancel. Badyngton is represented in the vestments of a priest ; at the foot of the inscription is a shield of arms : Ten bezants, in chief a label of three points.

There are two coloured memorial windows on the south side of the chancel. One is "In memory of Edward Jones, formerly rector of this parish, died July 19, 1857, aged 86 ; also Elizabeth Jones, his wife, who died January 31st, 1837, aged 57 ;" the other, "In memory of William John Roe, who was born at Blandford, Dorset, Feby. 29th, 1848, and died at Boston, Lincolnshire, May 18th, 1864."

Lipscomb records the following monuments which have been long since removed : On the south side of the chancel is a freestone, with this inscription :

Subtus conditur Elizabetha uxor Iudobici Atterbury, Thomæ Giffard Armi-
geri filia ; ob. xxi. die Feb. A. D. MDCCLIII.

Within the rails, and under the altar :

Hic iacet Ludobici Atterbury, S.T.P. hujusce ecclesie Rectoris quod Reliquum. Obiit bii. Dec. A. D. MDCCLXIII.

The churchyard is beautifully kept and is liberally planted with ornamental flowering trees and shrubs with borders filled with choice flowers ; in fact it is how "God's Acre" should be. On the south side of the yard is the old font, which now serves as a flower vase.

The register begins in the year 1559.



Hic iacet Adam Babington. quondam Rector istius eccle
Qui obiit Octavo die mensis Nouembr' Anno dni Mllo.
CCCC° Vicesimo. Septmo. cuius aie ppicietur deus Amen§

Milton Keynes Rectory.

The rectory house is a commodious residence, of red brick, in the Elizabethan style ; it is situated near the church, and was erected by the Rev. Dr. Wootton, who held the rectory from 1692 to 1726, as before stated. The house was thoroughly repaired in 1858.

Milton Keynes Charity.

The poor have a rent-charge of £2 per annum.

LITTLE WOOLSTONE.



LITTLE WOOLSTONE, or Woolstone Parva, is a parish of 631 acres, and a population of 83. It is bounded on the north, by Willen; on the east by the river Ousel and Milton Keynes; on the south, by Great Woolstone; and on the west by Bradwell. The village is small, and situated upon the road from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford. It is 3 miles south from Newport Pagnell, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north from Fenny Stratford.

Little Woolstone is in the petty sessional division, union, and county court district of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery of Bletchley; archdeaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

The Grand Junction Canal passes from north to south through the parish.

Near the church is an ancient and interesting building of red brick with clustered chimney shafts of an ornamental character. The family of Smith have occupied this residence since the year 1637. The present Mr. William Smith is well known amongst agriculturists; he was the inventor and patentee of the steam cultivator, and the founder of a mode of cultivating the soil by steam power which was appositely designated the "Woolstone system."

Roman coins have been found at various times in the parish, several having been brought to the surface whilst Mr. Smith's ploughing experiments were in operation.

On the banks of the Ousel or Lovat stands an ancient water mill with dwelling house. There are, apparently faint traces of a moat, around them; also indications of fish ponds.

By Act of Parliament the inclosure of the parish took place in 1791.

Manorial History of Little Woolstone.

The manor, is, in the copy of Domesday Book, printed by authority of Parliament, entered in the Hundred of Rovelai, as the land of Walter Giffard, and holden under him by Ralph, for one manor, consisting of three hides and a half. There were three carucates of arable, in the demesne were two; and four villeins had one carucate. There were ten carucates of pasture; and a mill of ten shillings annual value. It was then worth forty shillings; when he first held it, twenty shillings; and in the time of King Edward, sixty shillings. This manor had been holden by a thane of King Edward.

The land of William Fitz Aunculf, at the survey, is recorded in Sigelai Hundred, as holden in Vlsiestone, by William himself, as one hide and a half. There was one carucate and a half; in the demesne was one;

and one villein had half a carucate ; there were two servants. It was and had been valued at twenty shilling ; in the time of king Edward, at thirty shilling. This land Ulf, a thane of king Edward, had holden and might sell it.

Walter Giffard's manor having descended to the Clares, became part of the Honour of Gloucester, and afterwards to the Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham, as mentioned in divers places. In the reigns of Edward II. and III., the Staffords held their leets here ; but the chief possessors of lands were the descendants of the Fitz-Auscults, who also claimed a manor, which came from William Fitz-Auscult, as Newport did to the Pagnells and Someries, who held it temp. Edward I., under whom the Cowdreys held it ; from whom it passed in marriage, in the reign of Edward II., with Margaret, daughter of Thomas Cowdrey, to Roger Tyringham. About 1320 a fine was levied of this manor, passed to John Tyringham and his heirs, by John Comyn and Margarate his daughter. In 1505, Sir Robert Broughton died possessed of the manor of Little Woolstone ; which descending, by marriage of Anne, or Agnes, daughter of John Broughton of Broughton, to Pawlet Lord St. John, afterwards Marquess of Winchester, together with the manor of Broughton, was sold therewith, in 1573, to Thomas Duncumbe of Great Brickhill, in whose descendants it remains.

Ecclesiastical History of Little Woolstone.

The advowson is presumed to have been given in the time of Henry II., by Robert de Turnham, to the priory of Combwell, in Kent, of his foundation, and the vicarage ordained and presented to by that convent but the revenue being very small, the monks never obtained a firm settlement.

The valor, in 1554, was returned at £8/6/1, and the clear annual value certified at £38. On the dissolution of the monasteries, the patronage became vested in the crown, and so continues. Queen Elizabeth, by patent, 16 February 1591, granted to Robert Moyle and Richard Sutton, gents, their heirs and assigns, all her portion of tithes yearly issuing in the town-fields, hamlet, or parish of Woolstone Parva, late in the tenure of the rector, parcel of King Henry VIII's College in Oxford, and before, part of the possessions of the priory of Tickford.

This portion of tithes, computed worth £20 per annum, was, about 1740, purchased by Mr. Eyles, rector of Great Woolstone, with £100 given him by Mr. Pierrepont's trustees, and above £120 of his own added to it, in conjunction with Queen Anne's Bounty, who settled it in augmentation of the rectory of Great Woolston.

This rectory was consolidated with that of Great Woolstone, in 1855, and the approximate value per annum of the united benefice is £238, but its real net value is £216.

Rectors of Little Woolstone.

GARNERIUS, presented by the abbat and convent of Combewell, in 1222.

HENRY DE BECHE, presented 1231, on the same patronage.

JOHN DE LINFORD, died 1258 ; and was succeeded by

ROGER DE LECKHAMPSTED, in 1258. He died; and
 RALPH DE BALDOCK was presented 4 January 1274. He is supposed to have been created bishop of London.
 NICHOLAS, died 1309, and was succeeded by
 JOHN TUNDERT DE ROCHESTER, instituted 1 April 1309.
 THOMAS DE OXON was presented 18 January 1319.
 HENRY DE BYBURY occurs rector in 1347.
 JOHN STOKEWELL, exchanged it for Warpenham Chantry, Northamptonshire, with
 JOHN DE FARBURNE, 7 July 1367. He exchanged for Belton, with
 JOHN ADDINGTON, 22 October 1374; who exchanged for Morden Vicarage, in Kent, with
 WILLIAM DE WOLASTON, 17 February 1376. He exchanged for Willen, with
 RICHARD DE ASTON, 14 October 1392, who resigned it in 1399, in exchange with
 JOHN BLACKFORDLY, 17 October 1399, for Gothurst.
 JOHN WALTON was presented 28 May 1400.
 JOHN BETTIS exchanged 6 February 1424, with
 JOHN BAXTER, for Thwaite, in Norfolk.
 THOMAS FYLOT, died rector in 1454.
 THOMAS TREVYLEYN was instituted 21 November 1454.
 WILLIAM WRIGHT was presented 17 August 1461.
 RICHARD FLETCHER seems to have succeeded about 1470.
 WILLIAM DADDISLEY was instituted 12 September 1512.
 RICHARD BACON was instituted 29 August 1524.
 THOMAS LINCHFIELD was instituted 1 October 1557, on the presentation of Anthony Cave, Esq.
 JOHN MASSIE seems to have been rector about 1559.
 JOHN GLOVER was presented 1562, by John Newdigate, Esq. He resigned, and was succeeded by
 HENRY WILCOCKS, who was presented by the queen, and instituted 30 November 1575, but being made rector of Moulsoe, he resigned,
 WILLIAM CAINHOE, B.A., was presented by the queen, and instituted 14 November 1595. He willed to be buried in the chancel, and gave 40/- to be spent at his funeral.
 JOHN FOUNTAINE, M.A., succeeded, being presented 15 November 1649, by the usurping powers. He died, and
 HENRY FIRTH, B.A., succeeded 15 February 1677, presented by the king. He quitted it for Slapton.
 PETER CORNEY, M.A., was presented 8 April 1680, by the king; and dying in 1690, was buried in St. Giles's Chapel in Stony Stratford, where he was minister. He was succeeded by
 JOHN TOMPKINS, B.A., who was instituted 16 June 1690, on the presentation of the crown. He died 2 December 1734, "aquis frigidis suffocatus."
 JOHN WELLER, B.A., succeeded, being inducted 28 February 1734. He exchanged for Ravenstone, with
 ROBERT CHAPMAN, M.A., who was inducted 26 April 1742; being rector of Great Linford. He also exchanged for Ravenstone, with
 NATHAN DRAKE, in 1764. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, and minister of Thorney, in the Isle of Ely. He died soon afterwards, of consumption.
 RICHARD WADSWORTH succeeded 17 December 1765, on the presentation of the king
 THOMAS DAVIES, M.A., was inducted 26 May 1781.
 WILLIAM CORBETT was inducted 24 November 1794.
 THOMAS BASELEY was inducted 3 June 1796.
 FRANCIS ROSE, M.A., was inducted in 1834 on the presentation of the Lord Chancellor.

Holy Trinity Church, Little Woolstone.

The parish church is a small plain building of stone in the Early Perpendicular style. It underwent great repair in 1837, and the chancel

rebuilt in 1861. There are three bells in a very unsightly wood turret, which are all inscribed :

CHAUDLER MADE ME 1662.

The roofs are tiled. Over the door of the south porch are two niches, and a portion of the old stoupe for holy-water is plainly discernible in the north-east corner of the porch. The porch still retains stone sediles. The interior of the church is divided into a body and chancel. The former is lighted by four good mullioned windows of three lights each, in the Decorated style of architecture. One of them (that at the west end) contains a few fragments of old stained glass. On the north wall of the nave is a neat encaustic tablet inscribed :

To the Memory
of

DOROTHY WYNDLOW PATTISON,
better known as SISTER DORA, who worked for three
years loving and beloved as school-mistress in this Parish.
She afterwards laboured amongst the sick and dying
at Walsall, where she entered into rest
on Xmas Eve, 1878.

The chancel-arch is pointed and supported by clustered columns, with plain mouldings. The plaster ceiling of the nave is of three bays, and coved. The chancel roof is deal and stained to represent oak, and is waggon-shaped. The east window is of three lights and contains coloured glass. The pulpit and benches are plain oak. The reading desk, representing an eagle, is carved oak. The carved stone reredos representing the wise men from the east offering gifts to the infant Christ, was presented to the church, by the rector and family, in 1868. In the south wall of the nave, and nearly hidden by the organ, is a piscina with a good cinque-foil head. There are several fragments of ancient stained glass in a small single-light window in the vestry on the north side of the chancel. The large sculptured Norman font was mounted upon a new square base when the church was restored.

The registers date from the year 1558

GREAT WOOLSTONE.

WOOLSTONE MAGNA, or Great Woolstone, is a parish of 514 acres and has a population of 80 who are principally employed in agricultural pursuits. The village is in close proximity to that of Little Woolstone and is also upon the road from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford. It is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south from Newport Pagnell, and 3 miles north from Fenny Stratford.

The parish is bounded on the north, by Little Woolstone; on the east, by the river Lovat, or Ousel, and Milton Keynes; on the south, by Woughton-on-the-Green; and on the west, by Loughton and Bradwell.

Great Woolstone is in the petty sessional division, union and county court district of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery of Bletchley; arch-deaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

The Grand Junction Canal passes from north to south through the parish.

Manorial History of Great Woolstone.

When the Survey was made by command of William the Conqueror, this Woolstone was part of the lands of Walter Giffard, and then was holden under him by the monks of St. Peter de Culture, a foreign religious house, as five hides for a manor. There were five carucates of land. In the demesne two; and eight villiens with one bordar had three carucates. There was one mill, of six shillings and fourpence rent; four carucates of pastures; and woods for one hundred hogs. It was and had been estimated at £3; in the time of Edward, at £4. Alric Fitz Goding had holden this manor, and could sell it.

In the division of the Honour of Giffard by Richard 1., in 1190, Great Woolstone formed part of the mediety of Marshall Earl of Pembroke, and continued to be holden of the Marshalls and Valences, Earls of Pembroke, and afterwards of the Talbots.

The foreign religious house before named, continued to hold this manor till 1244, when it was conveyed, by purchase or gift, in 1276, to Paulin Peyvre, then a great man at court, and one who possessed considerable influence with his sovereign.

In this family it continued, as Wavendon had done, till it was conveyed by Nicholson Peyvre, the fifth in descent from Paulin, to Sir Henry Green, of Buckton, in Northamptonshire, by a fine passed in 1355.

It afterwards came, by the marriage of Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Green, to John Stafford, a younger son of Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wilts by Edward iv., who died

possessed hereof in right of his wife, about 1473. On the death of Edward Stafford, the second Earl of Wilts, without issue, in 1498, this manor came to the Mordaunts; as did the Green's estate at Drayton and Luffwick, in Northamptonshire; in which family, it continued many years, until at length, about 1642, they sold their interest here, as well as at Woughton and Willen, to Roger Nicoll, of Willen (see page 312).

Ecclesiastical History of Great Woolstone.

The right of presentation to this living, appears always to have been conveyed with the manor, until the family of Nicoll, about 1710, disposed of their interest in the advowson, to Thomas King. He, however, did not retain it long; for, in 1718, King sold the right of patronage to Henry Lucas, who shortly afterwards conveyed the same to William Gilpin, of Stony Stratford; who about 1724, also conveyed the advowson to the Rev. George Albert Iles, who was the incumbent in 1735. Thomas Stevens, of Walton, was the next presentee, but it soon passed into the hands of John Camden Neild, the eccentric barrister-at-law, of Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, who died in 1852, bequeathing the vast property he had amassed to Her Majesty the Queen, though the royal legatee was unknown to him.

On passing the inclosure act in 1791, an allotment was made to the rector of Great Woolstone, of a meadow and lands in Northall Furlong, containing about 33 acres 3 roods, exclusive of a footway through the same having the road from Woolstone towards Newport Pagnell on the north-west; and another plot in the Middle Field, Upper Field, and the Common, of about 156 acres 1 rood 20 perches, adjacent to the parish of Bradwell; altogether amounting to 190 acres and 20 perches; with the tithes or tenths annually arising from lands, formerly the estate of Nicholson Hackett, father of Dame Elizabeth Carew, and in the tenure of Daniel Edmonds.

Under the provisions of another Act, passed in 1796, it was enacted that the public roads should be forty feet wide between the ditches; and that no trees should be planted at a less distance, from the centre, than fifty yards. That the corn rents be payable quarterly, free from all parochial and other taxes and assessments, with power to the rector to enforce payment by law. And the said corn rents were accordingly fixed and agreed upon, for the term of twenty-one years, from 26 May 1818. By this Act, it was recited that the rectory was a manor; that Mr. Letton was patron; William Pincock, rector; George Goodman, Ann Bolding, and Sarah Ward, proprietors; and that William Bailey, of Bradwell, Thomas Houghton of Newport Pagnell, and Thomas Gostellow of Amphill, were the commissioners.

Rectors of Great Woolstone.

ERNALDUS MONCUI was collated by the bishop in 1271; he quitted it in 1302, for Muret, in Devonshire.

ROBERT DE STODHAM was his successor, who was presented 3 August 1302, by Sir John Heyvre, knight. At his decease,

- JOHN KETTERING DE IRTHLINGBOROUGH was presented 8 June 1349, by Nicholas Peyvre, Lord of Toddington. He died, and was succeeded by HENRY LE SMITH, who was instituted 5 August 1350, on the same presentation. He occurs rector in 1377.
- JOHN POKEBROOK, presented 25 May 1401, by Ralph Green. On his resignation, JOHN BEAME was presented 17 October 1415, by Henry Green.
- JOHN BAXTER exchanged for Thelveton, in Norfolk, 5 August 1425, with JOHN HALSTON, who was instituted in 1425, *expatratu Henrici Crounhale*, who was substituted to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem, which convent is supposed to have had this turn given to it.
- THOMAS HASTINGS occurs in 1467; and dying in 1487, was succeeded by PATRICK HOGGESTON, instituted 24 March 1487, on a grant of patronage of Edward Earl of Wiltshire. At his death,
- RICHARD WOODFORD was instituted 2 July 1526, on the patronage of Sir John Mordaunt, knight.
- JOHN CULLY, instituted in 1559, on the presentation of Humphrey Browne. He died; and
- JOHN GLOVER was instituted 17 April 1576, on the presentation of Henry Charge. At his death,
- LAWRENCE BYNNION, B.A., was instituted 18 December 1593, on the presentation of Thomas Bynnion.
- HUMPHREY CLARKE, B.A., was instituted 2 July 1602, on the presentation of William Stone. At his death,
- EDWARD PUTTENHAM, M.A., was instituted May 1634, on the presentation of Agnes Chapman, widow, and John Harris, yeoman; and was succeeded by HENRY FRYTH, M.A., and at his death,
- WILLIAM NICHOLLS, M.A., was instituted 1 November 1671, on the presentation of Thomas White and Roger Chapman to whom William Nicholls had made over his right.
- HENRY LUCAS, B.A., instituted 27 September 1704, on the presentation of Roger Nicholls; he died in New England; and was succeeded by ANTHONY NORMAN, who was presented by Thomas King, instituted 18 February 1720. He died and was buried at Great Loughton, where he was curate.
- JOHN GILPIN, B.A., instituted 28 September 1721. He resigned, being beneficed in Suffolk.
- GEORGE ALBERT ILES, M.A., presented 21 January and instituted 25 February 1726, by the bishop on lapse. He was also vicar of Bradwell, where he resided (see Bradwell). In 1742, on his cession, he was again inducted, March 23, on the presentation of Martha Hartley.
- MICHAEL WOODWARD, M.A., inducted 16 December 1773, on the presentation of Thomas Stevens, of Walton; as was
- JOHN DAVEY, B.A., inducted 6 April 1780. He resigned; and
- WILLIAM PINNOCK was inducted 3 February 1786, on the presentation of Frances Woodward, widow. On his resignation, he quitted this living for North Marston, and
- WEEDON BUTLER, M.A., was instituted in 1806, on the presentation of James C. Neild. He was the author of numerous papers in the *Gentleman's Magazine*; also of "Bagatelles," consisting of original poetry and translations, 1795, 8vo.; A translation of the "Prospect of the Political Relations which subsist between the French Republic and the Helvetic Body, from the French of Weiss," 1714, 8vo.; "The wrongs of Unterwalden," 1799; and "Zimas the African," 1800 and 1807. He considerably contributed from his father's papers to the fifth vol. of Nicholl's Literary Illustrations of the 18th century. His father was the Rev. Weedon Butler, minister of Charlotte Street Chapel, Pimlico, and lecturer of St. Clement's, Eastcheap, and St. Martin Orgars, London. At his decease, he was succeeded by
- HENRY TATTAM, D.D., instituted 12 August 1831, on the presentation of John Camden Neild. He also held the rectory of St. Cuthbert, in the town of Bedford; and greatly distinguished himself by having very satisfactorily executed various

missions to the east, in search for original MSS. of the sacred scriptures; and especially in having obtained a Coptic version of the Bible. He also added to Biblical literature, by many learned works; among which is an Egyptian Grammar, and Coptic Lexicon, and an edition of the twelve minor prophets in that language, many of which have been introduced to the public by the Oxford University Press, with the highest testimonials to his diligence and abilities as oriental scholar, by the most eminent authors.

EDWARD HILL, M.A., was instituted in 1851. He died in October 1878.

PENSWICK SMITH was instituted in 1878.

HENRY TURNER INMAN, M.A., was presented in 1885. He was succeeded by HUGH WILLIAM SMITH, who was presented in 1895.

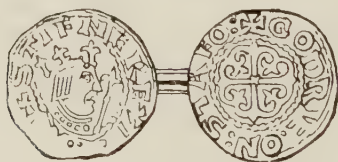
Holy Trinity Church, Great Woolstone.

This is a small edifice with a bell-cote on the west gable, in which hangs one bell. It was rebuilt about sixty-five years ago by the parish, at a cost of about £1,100, and consists of a body or nave, small chancel, and south porch. The interior is neatly fitted up with plain open seats. The lectern, which is of oak, is finely carved to represent an eagle. The font is of Norman design, and was brought here from the ancient church of St. Cuthbert, in the town of Bedford.

The registers date from the year 1538.

Great Woolstone Rectory.

The house is in the Elizabethan style of architecture; it is situated near the church, and was built about forty-five years ago, at a cost of about £800. It is of red brick with a high pitched roof.



SILVER PENNY OF STEPHEN.

BRADWELL.

THE parish of Bradwell, as taken in this history, contains that portion known as Bradwell Abbey, and the township of Stantonbury, formerly known as New Bradwell. The area of the whole is 1364 acres, and the population, according to the last census, is 2,915, the greater part of whom find employment in the works at Wolverton. The combined population in 1851, was 397.

Old Bradwell is a scattered village, and lies 4 miles south-west from Newport Pagnell, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from Stony Stratford, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west from Fenny Stratford, and 1 mile south from Wolverton.

New Bradwell, now designated Stantonbury is of recent construction. Its existence commences with the demolition of North's Cottages, mentioned on page 286, when building operations commenced, and have continued until the present time, when there are several streets with good shops and imposing places of worship. Stantonbury, with the populous district known as Corner Pin is situated entirely upon the south side of the road leading from Newport Pagnell to Wolverton.

Bradwell Abbey was formerly an extra parochial parish, but is now recognised as a separate parish. It comprises 447 acres.

The combined parish is in the petty sessional division, union, and county court district of Newport Pagnell; rural deanery and arch-deaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

Bradwell parish is bounded on the north, by the river Ouse, Haverham, and Stantonbury; on the east, by Stantonbury, Great Linford, Little and Great Woolstone; on the south, by Loughton, Shenley, and Calverton; and on the west, by Stony Stratford and Wolverton.

The Grand Junction Canal crosses the northern portion of the parish, as also does the Newport Pagnell and Wolverton branch of the London and North-Western Railway.

Manorial History of Bradwell.

Before the Norman invasion, the manor of Bradwell was in the hands of two thanes or knights of Edward the Confessor; but on the compilation of Domesday Book, the whole parish was shared between Walter Giffard, William Fitz Ausculf, and Milo Crispin; the last mentioned possessing much the larger portion, under the name of a manor; and was holden as two hides and three virgates, by Sibi and Godwin, men of Alric Fitz Goding, who could sell it.

The small part of Bradwell holden by William Fitz Ausculf, was considered as part of the manor of Newport Pagnell, which appears to have been entitled to suit of court up to a late period; and therefore, this

estate is seldom mentioned in subsequent records separately from that lordship. In the Testa de Nevil it was reckoned only the eighth part of a knight's-fee, and stated to have been then holden by John the son of Nicholas, of the Honour of Paganel.

In the Survey it was entered in Segelai Hundred, as holden by William Fitz Ausculf for three virgates. There was one carucate of land; and one plough kept with one villein; and two bordars and one servant, and one carucate of pasture; valued always at ten shillings. This land Aluuard, a man of Goding held and could sell it. Of this land Ausculf had unjustly dis-possessed William de Celsi, when he was sheriff, as was said by the men of the Hundred, and without license of the king or of anyone.

Walter Giffard's lands in Bradwell, are described as if in Rovelai Hundred, not in Segelai, and holden under him by Walter Achet, for one hide and a half. There were two carucates of land; one in the demesne, and another might have been cultivated there; one bordar, one servant, and one carucate of pasture; valued at twenty shillings, when he first held it at ten shillings; in the reign of Edward, at thirty shillings. This land was holden by Aluiet, a man of Queen Edith, and he might sell it.

The estate of Walter Giffard here, formed part of the honour named after him; and, on the division thereof by Richard I., was part of that mediety which was assigned to Marshall Earl of Pembroke, and reckoned as half a king's-fee.

In the reign of Henry II., this manor was given to the family of Keynes, also lords of Middleton Keynes, in reward for taking King Stephen prisoner. Bradwell continued in that family until 1315, when it passed in marriage with Margaret, daughter and heir of Robert de Keynes to Philip de Aylesbury; who, about 1330, obtained a license from Henry Burgwash, bishop of Lincoln.

In the Hundred Rolls of 1253, Bradwell is stated to have been holden under Honour of Wallingford and the Honour of Marshall, and therefore not liable to pay scutage. That part which had belonged to Milo Crispin, and which subsequent to his death, was holden with the manor of Stantonbarry, and constituted one knight's fee, was privileged by the several possessors of Crispin's lands, and was holden by Peter de Barré; but it has not been ascertained at what exact period, Giffard's lands and those belonging to the Honour of Wallingford had become united, however, it is clear from the Testa de Nevil, that the above mentioned Peter held both portions in 1234; and in 1310, the family of Barry passed a fine of their estates in this county, under which, as Stanton descended to the female heirs, it is probable that Bradwell was soon afterwards alienated to the family of Keynes.

Ecclesiastical History of Bradwell.

Although the earliest inquisitions holden on the family of Aylesbury do not include Bradwell among their possessions, this is no proof of its not having belonged to their ancestors at a very remote period; for, in the Normina Villarum, a Book of Tenures of the time of Edward II., as

also in the Episcopal Registers of Lincoln, it appears that the manor and advowson were holden under the possessors of the Honours of Wallingford and Gloucester; and therefore the reliefs payable from Bradwell were due to the chief lords, and exempt from all authority of the King's Courts, under their especial privileges, so frequently alluded to.

From a valor in the Bishop of Lincoln's archives at Buckden, made about 1380, it appears that

Bradwell Abbey

which had been originally founded by Manfelin, lord of the manor of Wolverton, an adjoining parish, 1155, as a prior of Black Monks, and contiguous to the village of Bradwell (whence the name was given to it instead that of Wolverton), received a grant of the tithe of bread from Hamo, the son of Manfelin, in his household.

Priors of Bradwell.

The Priors of Bradwell, whose names are inserted in the Monasticon, and only to be found in the returns made in the reign of Henry VIII., at the time of the dissolution, were :

NIGELLUS, in 1189.

RICHARD, in 1190, and again in 1202.

JOHN, in 1220.

RICHARD, in 1234; resigned or was deprived in 1236.

SIMON DE CANTIA, elected in 1236.

JOHN, in 1254.

BARTHOLMEW, in 1274, granted a corrody in this priory to Henry de Hyntes and Anicia his wife.

ROBERT DE RAMSEY elected in 1280.

JOHN, died 1320.

ROBERT ROLLESHAM, license for election granted by John de Wolverton, patron, 2 December 1320.

ROBERT FOLYOT occurs in 1329; resigned in 1331.

SIMON DE ELENSTOW, elected 9 July 1331, by license of John de Wolverton. He resigned; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM DE LOUGHTON, elected July 1336; died in 1349.

JOHN DE WYLLINE, elected 8 August 1349; sequestered for delapidations in 1361

JOHN, or WILLIAM HORWOOD, elected 13 February 1409, by license from John Longueville and John Cheyne.

JOHN WELLES, elected in 1492, from Snelshall priory; died August 1503.

THOMAS WRIGHT, elected 24 August 1503; resigned 1504.

ROBERT BOSTON, made prior by the Bishop of Lincoln, on account of the deficiency of the number of monks to elect, in 1504.

JOHN ASHLEY, late prior Ramsey, appointed by the bishop, 18 October 1515. His name occurs in 1523; and he continued to be prior until the suppression of the House, in 1526, when it was dissolved by Papal Bull, and with other small Monasteries bestowed upon Cardinal Wolsey, which he made part of the endowment of his College at Oxford; but on the Cardinal's attainder, afterwards annexed to Shene, in Surrey, by Letters Patent of 27 December 1531.

Sir John de Lonngueville, knight, patron of Bradwell abbey, as well as of the advowson of the church, in 1524, granted his charter to the

priory of Bradwell. The original document still remains in the Chapter House, Westminster.

Thomas Longueville, a descendant of this Sir John Longueville, compounded for his estates at Bradwell, with the usurping powers during the Civil Wars, for the sum of £520.

In a rental of Bradwell abbey, made in 1380, some particulars are also found of the property of the convent; which included the churches of Wolverton and Padbury, and the vicarage there, with the portion of the prior of Bradwell in the church of Loughton Parva; and temporalities in Bradwell, Padbury, and Linford, deducting the tenths, amounting to £32/7/2. In a ms. in the Cottonian Library, is another rental, taken at a court leet for the manor of Bradwell, holden by John, prior of Shene, on the Monday after the Holy Trinity in 1533, it was granted by a Bull of Pope Clement to Cardinal Wolsey, by way of exchange for the manor of Lewisham, in Kent, for the monks of Shene; and as a parcel of the possession of that monastery, exchanged in 1543, with Arthur Longueville, of Wolverton, who settled it on his younger son, of the same names; under whom, 17 March 1542, William Wogan held the site of the manor, *cum pert.*, containing seven great closes; at a rent of £20 per annum (Bear Close, Stubborn Hill alias Furzen Close, next Loughton Meadows, Close le Grove, and divers other little closes, orchards, and gardens to the same site belonging); and also the rectory of Wolverton, of the yearly rent of £20.

John Newman also held a messuage, close, and lands in Bradwell, at three shillings per annum. Nicholas Newman, a messuage, and forty-eight acres of land, half an acre of meadow, and three swathys in the Great Holme in Wolverton, at £1 per annum. John Wylman held Bancroft Close in Bradwell, of three acres, at three shillings per annum. John Coke, thirty-seven acres, paying four shillings per annum. John Nycholl, of Great Linford, a messuage, land, and tenements, and an acre of meadow, at three shillings per annum. Roger Gyffard held by indenture Padbury rectory, paying £6/13/4 per annum. John Duffield and Margaret his wife, held a close called Towns, and thirteen acres and a half in Loughton, at eight shillings per annum. John Watkyns, a messuage and tenement, called the Grange; and a close and eighty acres of land, at £1/13/4 per annum; and William Foster, vicar of Bradwell, held the rectory and tithes of Bradwell, paying £3 per an.

A rental of the priory of Bradwell, made in 1458, includes divers small rents in Billing and Northampton, Wickyane, Claydon, Stoke, Linford, and Luffield, amounting to £3/5/2; also Loughton, with the tenths of the rectory £1/6/-; Padbury and a farm there, and Stratford with the tenths of Wolverton mill and Stretley, £30/5/1, besides a flaggon of wine, fourteen capons, and another flaggon of wine; with the following advowsons, viz., Thornborough, Wickhammond (Stoke Hammond?), Chalfont St. Giles, and Tamworth.

The survey of Bradwell, in the Chapter House of Westminster, includes a very particular description of the ancient possessions of the priory, as follows:

The Manor of Bradwell.

Imp'mis the Gatehowse otherwise called a garret, sleated, which is p'telie in decay for lack of poynntyng.

It^m. on the est side the gatehowse ij. howsez, tiled, cont. in lenght lxxvij. fote, in decay for lack of tylyng.

It^m. on the west side the gatehowse bene div's howsez that conteyn in lenght iiij^{xxx}. and vij. fote dekaied for lack of thackyg.

It^m. div' old howsez conteynyng in lenght iiij^{xxx}. fote, utterlie dekaied for lack of thackyg, and the most pte of the tymb. as yet remeyneth there wold be saved.

It^m. a barn of vj. bayes, greitlie in decay for lack of wallyng and thackyg.

It^m. a barn of iiij. baies, with the tymber stondyng uncov'd. Thies foresaid howsez may wel be spared.

It^m. a barn conteynynge ix. baies, in lenght cvj. fote and a brede xxvij. fote, which barn is cov'd with tyle and in sm place w^t straw, ptelie in decay for lack of tylyng, which barn may not be spared.

§ THE INN COURT.

Imp'mis the Gate is a chaumb. tyled.

It^m. on the north side of the gate iiij. howsez under a rose, with chaumbers ov. theme and cov'd with tile, and conteyn in lenght lxxj. foote.

It^m. a loo parler with a chaumb. ov tyled, adioyning to the side howsez, in lenght xxx fote.

It^m. on the south side the gate is a malt howse and a kyn howse cov'd w^t tile, which have nede of mending.

It^m. there be div's howsez on a rowe clerelie in decay, and sum tymber standyng and sum lence on the ground there, which howsez cont. in lenght iiij^{xxx}. and vj. fote.

It^m. the walle of a howse standyng whowte tymber, which howse conteyned in lenght xxxv. fote, utt'lie dekaied.

It^m. the kechyn is in decay for lack of tylyng.

It^m. a lede in the kechyn.

Thies howsez may wel be spared.

§ The Haul is cov'd w^t tile, and conteyneth in lenght lv. fote and in brade xxiiij. suwhat runious for lack of tylyng.

It^m. at the north-east of the haul is a chaumber ov the said Kinge Chaumb. which is cov'd with tile.

It^m. ov. the west side of the haul is a chaumb. called the P'ors Chaumber and a chymney therein, and cov'd w^t tile.

It^m. ij. loo parlars under the seid chaumber.

It^m. a butte goyng forth of the haul.

§ The cloyster is cov'd with tile and gutter'd w^t lede, which is ruinous and may well be spared.

It^m. the chapit-howse, w^t an other howse nygh adioynynge.

It^m. ov. the chapit-howse is the dorter, and five selle in the same that be borded, which dorter conteyneth in lenght xxx fote, and in brede xxiiij. fote.

It^m. a loo parler goynge furthe of the cloyster.

§ The Chauncell conteyneth in lenght lxj. fote, and in brede xxiiij. fote, and the rofe veine evill tymber, and on the oon side it is cov'd with lede upon a xxxvj. fote, and all the reside tiled and al fallyng down.

It^m. there is an awter stonygh ij. yarde longe.

It^m. there lieth in the chauncell old leyd that was blowen beside the same chauncell.

It^m. a chapell adioynyng to the chauncell greitlie in decay, which conteyneth in lenght xvij. fote and in brede xvj. fote, which chapell is cov'd with lede.

It^m. a chapell on the south side of the chauncell utt'lie dekaied with sum lede there upon.

It^m. the south ile of the Church cont. in lenght xxxvj. fote, and in brede xxiiij. and newlie buylded w^t verie slender tymber, which ile is cov'd with tile.

It^m. the north aisle of the church, in lenght xxxvj fote, and in brede xxiiij. fote, newlie buylded with slender tymber, and cov'd with tile.

§ The Church conteyneth in length lxxij. and in brede xxij. which is cov'd with tile and the tymber thereof verie evill, which it is right necessarie shortlie to be taken down.

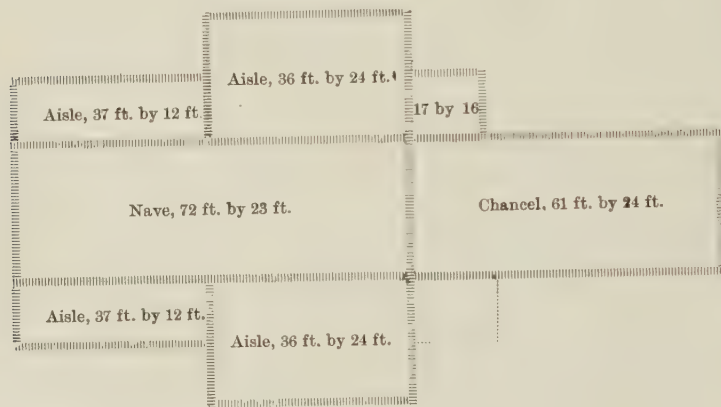
It^m. ij. ilez nygh to the church dore, oon of the north side and the other of the south side, and either of them cont. lenght xxxvij. fote, and in brede xij. fote, which isleze ben cov'd w^t lede.

It^m. the revestr. is decayed.

It^m. the steple is latelie buylded w^t borde thereupon uncov'd.

It^m. vj. awter stonez.

It^m. in the church ij. bells which be worth.....



GROUND PLAN OF THE CHURCH OF BRADWELL ABBEY.

Showing the positions of the six aisles or chapels.

It^m. in the chauncell is old glasse. wold be taken down and saved for the mending of div's chauncells, &c.

The church chauncell and all other islez may wel be spared, and right necessarie it is that shortlie to be done for the saluacion of the tile and tymber.

It^m. there is a litle chapell w^houte the church, which may not well be spared.

It^m. thofferyngs at o^r Ladie of Bradwell in the same chapell is worth yeirlie

It^m. the tile tymber and iren, that may be spared is worth.....

There is a dovehowse w^houte the w^ll cort in decay for lack of tylyng.

It^m. a shephowse.

§ The said man^r place of Bradwell is copassed round abowte with enclosere, which closys cont. xvij^{xx}. acr. or nygh thereabowte, which seid Manor place w^h the closys oon Thoms Rouse gent. now holdeth at will of the Lord, and paieth yeirlie for the same.....xxijⁱⁱ.

THE POOLE THERE.

First a poole called Westmhall, w^t a litle narow poole goyinge furth of the same.

It^m. their haith be div's other pools which now be wasted and litle or no fisse therein.

THE WODDE THERE.

It^m. cccxli trees of elme and ashe, which be worth oon with another a piece xij^d.

It^m. there be meny small elme, maples, and willowe and rait of asshez, &c. There may be made of the wodde there xli. and sufficient trees left abowte the said ground, and the ground to be more in p^fite bothe for the lord and the tennt.

§ Sir John Longfeld knyght had of his own fee ground w^hin the seid closys called th Ferme House, cont. in lenght xxiiij. fote and no other buyldynge thereunto and a close cont. j. acr. of ground wherein the same howse standeth and xxiiij. acr. of ley and arrable ground w^hin the same closys ; of which xxiiij. acr. xx. of theme lie in a close called Stony Hill, which is as course pasture as can be, and in man. bereth no grasse, and vij. leys he in a close called Stubborne-hill Close, which ferme ground now lienge in pasture is not worth by the yere xxiiij^s. And for the same ferme the said Sr John Longfeld haith in exchange of the late p^ory there this div's possessions, to the yerlie value of xij^{li}. vij^s. viii. as ppereth be this p^celle hereaft ensuyng.

First a milne called the Maide-milne, worth by year iij^{li}. vij^s. viij^d.

It^m. of George Reve of Wolve'ton by yeare xxiiij^s. iv^d.

It^m. of Thoms Hall of the same town xvij^s.

It^m. of Ric Hall of the same town iij^s. iij^d.

It^m. of Ric Bokyn^{am} of the same iij^s. iij^d.

It^m. the said Sr John Longfeld holdeth and occupieth by the same exchange all such lands, meadows, and pastures as latelie belonged to Bradwell, which londs in Wolveton feld and be worth yeirley iij^{li}. No ⁿ that the exchange was made about such tyme as the howse was suppressed.

THE TOWN OF BRADWELL.

§ Sr Nicholas Newman holdeth at will a mese place and barn, and a house of ij. baies, a close, and c^ten arrable land belonging to the seid mese, which butte on the estside on the lorde ground wherein John Watkyns now dwelleth, the lane lienge betwene called Butlers Lane, and on the westside on a ground of Humfrey Stafford squier, and on the south side on a close of oon Willm Coke, and on the north side on the kings highway, and paieth yeirlexx^s.

The said Newman holdeth at will a little close cont. nygh a rode, and butts on thestside on the ground of oon Willm Robyns, and on the west side on the ground of oon John Wylmylne called Lanescroft, and on the south end on the church lane.

There is belongynge to the seid ferme xxxvj. acr. of arrable land.

The said mese is ruinous for the lack of greit tymber.

Trees about the seid ground xxxvj. oon with another worth a pece.iij^d.

§ John Newman paieth yeirle to the howse of Bradwell which he denyeth to pay as a chief rentxij^d.

The seid money is goynge furth of his macion place of Bradwell.iij^s. vij^d

LOUGHTON.

§ John Curteis holdeth frely of the lorde a mese and a crofte of ix. acr. of arrable land, which stondesth and lieth betwene the ground of oon Robt Andrew on the north side and south side, and a ground of theire of Sr Thoms Lucy on the north side, and butte on the estside on the Kings hygh way, and on the west side on the co'en feld, and paieth yeirle for the same xij^d.

§ Thomas Taillo^r holdeth at will a close called Tomes lieinge in the chapell (field?) and cont. j. acr. and xiiij. acr. and j. rode of arrable land let to the same which lieth between a close of theirs of Pigot, the Kings highway lienge betwene on the north side, and on the south pte on a certon close let to the seid heire and pte on a close in the tenure of oon P^civall, and butt^s on thest end on a litle co'en grene, and on the west end on a co'en grene shotyng unto the westfeld, and paieth yerlie vij^s.

There be meny feyr saumplesse of asshez and oak.

WOLVERTON.

§ Sir Willm Hecok is vicar there, which vicarage is in the giftei of the colledge. The colledge is charged there with the repacon of the chaunceil, which is ruinous, as well as in tylynge as in ston worke and in glassynge.

§ Thomas Rowse gent, holdeth at will of the lord the tythe there, and paieth yeirle for the same xx^{li}.

SHENLEY.

§ John Alwey holdeth at well of the lord oon yardland lienge in the felds and paieth yeirly for the same vj^s.

The same John Alwey occupieth other arrable lands belonginge to Maistrez Pigot, and with that there can be no devision made thereupon.

STONY STRETTFORD.

§ Thomas Grene holdeth at the will of the lord a mese and a crofte and vij. acr. and di. of land, which mese stondeth and lieth in the market place between the ten't of oon Henry Rookes on thest pte and a tent. of oon Johanne Smith on the west pte, and butte on the south side on the Market-place and on the north side on ten leys shotynge to the riv' and paieth yeirlye for the same xxxvj. viij.

Which is behynde unpaid by the space or ij. yeire and he is not of power to pay any rent, wherfore he wold be discharged.

Sir John Longfeld knight haith taken from the seid howsez thes pcells ensuyng :

First an acr. of arrable land lienge at Mile-busshen the felde of Wolv'ton.

It^m. xvij. butte lienge at a place called Helemede in the seid felde.

It^m. in the same felde vij. leys of firre.

It^m. di. acr. of medowe ground lienge at Milnmede which pcelle of land have tyme out of mynde bene lienge to the seid howse unto such tyme as this same Sr John Longfeld toke and w^hheld them from the said howse.

§ It^m. a ten't lienge in Stony Stretford betwene the signe of the Swan on the south side and on the north side pt of a howse called the Brotherhed Howse and pt on the church yard, which howse Sr John Longfeld w^hheld from the late p^orie of Bradwell, which now lieth in deokay for lack of repacon, videl. tymber and sklate, and rent whereof xiijs. iiij^d.

M^d. that a litle money betyme will make it sufficient in repacon.

NORHTSHIRE.

THE TOWN OF NORHT.

§ The m^{ter} of Seynt John Norhampton holdeth frely of the lord a ten't which is the signe of the Bull and lieth betwene a ten't of oon Willm Gillon the west side and a ten't beh^d. to the seid howse of Seynt John on thest side, and butte on the south end on the chapell of Seynt in Alhalow church, and paieth yeirlye for the same xv. ij^d

BILLYNG MAGNA.

§ Edward More husbondman holdeth at will a mese w^t other howsez thereuntou belongynge and an orchard and oon yard belongyng to the same and paieth yeirley xvj^s

The said howse is in deokay as ensueth :

Imp'mis on thest end on the mausion howse is a howse of xxi. fote clerelie dekaied w^t litle tymb left, which may not be spared.

It^m. a barn of xxxij. fote in lenght and xvj. fote in brede clerelie dekaied, and there remeyneth in tymber ij. peyr of forke and div's sparre.

It^m. a howse of xx. fote in lenght adioynyng to the barn clerely dekaied, and oon peyr of fork standyng.

It^m. the dwellyng howse is in deokay for lack of wallyng and greit tymber, &c.

Ther is no trees in the ground but appul trees.

WYKYN.

§ Hugh Versie ten'nt of cteyn leys and ground ther', and paieth yerelie viij^s. Summa xxvj^s. viij^d

The impression of the conventual seal of Bradwell, imperfectly remaining in white wax, is mentioned in the Monasticon, as appendant to a deed in the office of the Duchy of Lancaster ; being a representation of the Virgin and child ; but the legend is wholly gone. The prior's seal has the figure of that officer, with his staff and book, and the inscription **SI^gILLV PRIORIS DE BRADWEL.**

The abbey estate or farm now belongs to the Mercers' Company, of London, who purchased it from Lord Dartmouth.

The priory building appears to have been remodelled, partly rebuilt, and converted into a mansion, which subsequently degenerated to a farm house. Some of the rooms are wainscotted, spacious, and lofty. The house was formerly moated; small traces of this ancient defence are plainly discernable in the field in the front of the house. Here, too, is the fish pond of the abbots of Bradwell. The abbey was approached by an avenue of trees.

A small chapel remains, apart from the present house, which has been converted into a barn. It is about eighteen feet long, and ten feet wide; the walls are about four feet thick; at the west end is a good mullioned window of three lights, with a square-headed window of two lights on both the north and south sides, now built up. The original pointed arch doorway, on the south side, decorated with the ball flower, is blocked up, and near it, in the interior, is the arch of the holy water stoupe; at the altar end is a large canopied niche richly sculptured; the coved ceiling, as well as the walls have been lime washed and this has completely obliterated the painted surface which represented clouds, angels, etc. Above the south door there is a stone of about six feet long, with good open quatrefoil work. This bears unmistakable traces of having been placed in this position within recent years. There cannot be much doubt that this is a portion of the altar stone mentioned in the above inventory. At the east end, on the exterior of the chapel, is a high octagonal pier which has borne an arch of large dimensions, thus showing it to have been contiguous to the church, or a northern gateway. The roof is high pitched and tiled.

The Moat House, Old Bradwell.

About five hundred yards from Bradwell abbey is the Moat house, a good sized comfortable cottage—the remains of the ancient manor house which was enclosed by a moat, portions of which are distinctly traceable.

Vicars of Old Bradwell.

HENRICUS, presented 8 October 1223, by the prior and convent of Tickford.

RADOLPHUS DE BERKHAMSTED, presented in 1229.

RALPH died 1338, and was succeeded by

JOHN MAMONIVE, instituted 2 February 1338. He died; and his successor was

WILLIAM DE WALDEGRAVE, instituted 15 March, on the presentation of the king.

He resigned; and was succeeded by

JOHN HAY, instituted 3 November 1354, on the presentation of the king. He died; and

JOHN ATTE BROK DE WISTON was instituted 15 October 1361, on the presentation of John Prate and William de Lonyne, monks of Tickford Priory.

WILLIAM RUFF admitted 2 August 1367, on the same patronage. He died; and was succeeded by

RICHARD DE SOTTON, alias DYE, admitted 7 April 1390, on the presentation of the king. He exchanged it for Wolverton, 4 December 1394, with

JOHN NAPIER, who exchanged it, with

JOHN TWYNGHE, 5 June 1395. He exchanged for Dagnell Chantry, with

JOHN ALDBURGH, 9 December 1395.

JOHN LARK succeeded him; but exchanged for Little Marlow, with

JOHN JEKER, 25 February 1397. He also exchanged with

RICHARD BAYLY, 10 October 1399; who resigned in 1403; and was succeeded by JOHN WRIGHT, presented 7 March 1403. He resigned; and was succeeded by JOHN SMITH, presented 25 November 1407, by the convent of Tickford. WALTER WILMOT resigned 1408; and was succeeded by JOHN MAYSTON, instituted 13 May 1408, on the presentation of the convent of Tickford.

JOHN ROPER exchanged for Crookham Chapelry, in Sarum Diocese, with SIMON HERMESWORTH alias WRIGHT 27 November 1413. He died, and WILLIAM WRIGHT was instituted 5 January 1417, but resigned.

JOHN FERNE was instituted 25 February 1417. He resigned.

ROBERT DE KIRKEBY was instituted 19 October 1418

SIMON WESTON died vicar 1458.

RICHARD WATTESON instituted 1 September 1458, on the presentation of the convent of Tickford. He resigned, and

WILLIAM POPE was instituted 26 August 1463, on the presentation of the convent of Tickford. He quitted it for Loughton.

JOHN DAPNEY was instituted 11 April 1472. He died, and

JOHN SELLAM or CELLAM was instituted 20 July 1506; and resigning,

WILLIAM FORSTER was instituted 9 June 1509. He was buried here 2 June 1551, having also been vicar of Stanton Barry.

JAMES SHAW presented 7 June 1551 by the king. He was afterwards vicar of Stanton Barry, and turned out of both. In 1579, he was a prisoner in the Gate-house at London, for his religion, being a zealous catholic; and was ultimately deprived.

THOMAS HABURLEY, instituted 14 April 1578. He was buried here; 9 February 1608.

RICHARD EVANS, M.A., was instituted 9 May 1608, on the presentation of the king. He died in 1644.

RICHARD WYNN, M.A., instituted 5 April 1644, under the same patronage. He died, and

JOHN HUGHES was inducted 18 May 1655. He died and

PETER DE MOULIN, S.T.P., was inducted 24 October 1657, but resigned; and

ROBERT WALLIS, B.D., was inducted 4 November 1657. He took Ellesborough rectory of his own patronage, in 1665, and quitted this; and was afterwards rector of Gothurst.

THOMAS DISNEY, M.A., Fellow of Ch. Ch. Coll., Oxon, instituted 6 March 1665. He resigned it to his son,

MATTHEW DISNEY, M.A., instituted 6 May 1682. He was of Ch. Ch. Coll., Oxon, M.A., 8 April 1682; and having quitted this living was made rector of Bletchley; being succeeded by

WILLIAM NORMAN, M.A., instituted 23 August 1693. He was of the Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A., 1681, M.A., 1685.

RICHARD COKERSALL, M.A., instituted 1711. He was of Brasenose College, Oxon, M.A., 7 June 1700; died 1729, in Lancashire; and was succeeded by

JAMES HUME, M.A., instituted 20 January 1729. He was of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, B.A., 1694; M.A., 1709; and was buried here, 7 February 1734.

SHADRACK GARMESTON, M.A., inducted 13 February 1734. He was of University College, Oxon, M.A., 12 June 1713; and also vicar of Hanslope. He died, 18 October 1741; and was succeeded by

GEORGE ATBERT ILES, M.A., inducted 4 February 1741, also rector of Great Woolstone; and died in 1773. He was of Queen's College, Oxon, M.A., 3 July 1722.

THOMAS BRADBURY, M.A., was instituted 1773. He had been curate of Stony Stratford, where he married the daughter of a substantial Innkeeper; and having been educated as an apothecary, and disliking that profession, took Holy Orders. He was the son of Mr. Bradbury, an Essex clergyman, and died 5 May 1802; being succeeded by

JONATHAN BRIGGS, M.A., inducted 12 May 1802, on the presentation of George III.

He was also rector of Thornborough; and dying, was succeeded by

WALTER DRAKE, M.A., Domestic Chaplain to H.R.H. Duke of Sussex, 2 July 1833.

He was also rector of Moulsoe. At his death, he was succeeded by KITELEE CHANDOS BAILY, B.A., who was instituted in 1869. He also holds the living of Tattenhoe, in the adjoining Hundred.

The Church of St. Lawrence, Old Bradwell.

This is an ancient and venerable structure, consisting of nave, south aisle, a chancel, north porch, and west tower. The style is a mixture of Early English and Decorated, with a few good windows of each. The aisle is divided from the nave by three pointed arches, resting on late Norman or very Early English columns. The six quatrefoil clerestory windows are modern and are filled with coloured glass. The open pine roofs are supported by stone corbels. The pulpit is of Caën stone, slightly sculptured, and octangular in shape. In the south wall of the aisle is a piscina, showing that there was a chantry here. Through the tower arch is seen the west window of three lights, containing the figures of Noah, John the Baptist, and Moses, the whole inscribed "To the glory of God and in memory of William James Baily, who died June 21, 1862, aged 77 years; also of Elizabeth, his wife, who died January 22, 1869, aged 72 years." The coloured window in the aisle depicting the Annunciation, in memory of "Old Judge Baily," the magistrate, and great-great-grand-father to the present much respected incumbent, bears the following inscription: "In memory of William Baily, who died October 22, 1802." In a window, of the nave, containing the effigies of the Saints Chrysostomus, Augustinus, and Paulus, are three discs of ancient glass, in the lower part of the lights. The font is small; the basin, which has lately been slightly sculptured around the edge, is supported upon a clustered pillar. The pointed chancel arch is modern and of good proportion. The chancel is small, and the east window of three lights is surrounded by dog's-tooth moulding that was discovered when the old, and small, chancel arch was taken down, during the present incumbency. The glass in this window depicts the crucifixion, and is inscribed: "To the glory of God, to the loving memory of William George Duncan, who died September, 1876." The two-light window on the south side of the chancel, with effigies of Mary and Martha, is inscribed: "To the glory of God, and in memory of Celia Baily, who died September 22, 1859, aged 96 years." Saint Lawrence, the patron saint, is depicted in the small single-light window on the north side of the chancel. The whole of the coloured windows are by Clayton and Bell. The beautifully executed reredos, representing the wise men from the east offering gifts to the infant Christ was illuminated by Westlake, at the cost of £70. There is a credence table, with a canopy, inserted in the north wall of the chancel. In the tower floor is a sepulchral slab, inscribed to Sir Joseph Alston, of Bradwell abbey, who died in 1688; this was taken from the chancel when the church was restored, and beautified through the energy of the Rev. Kitelee Chandos Baily. The upper part of the tower has been taken down as low as the belfry window, and has been finished off in the very uncommon "saddle-back" style. Above the belfry window are the letters "P.C.," and the date "1830."

The tower contains four bells, inscribed :

First & Second : ✠ MICHAEL : DE : VVYMBIS : ME FECIT.

Third : RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1700.

Fourth : VOX AVGVSTINI SONET IN AVRE DEL.

The first and second bells were made by Michael de Wymbis in London, in the thirteenth century, and are the oldest in the Hundreds that show the bell founder's name ; it is very probable that they are the oldest as the third bell at Hardmead, and the second bell at Ravenstone and Stoke Hammond, are assigned to the fourteenth century. The large bell is badly cracked.

The registers date from the year 1557.

The Vicarage, Old Bradwell.

The Vicarage House is a genteel residence situated in the village, about 300 yards from the church.

Charities of Old Bradwell.

By his will in 1734, the Rev. James Hume bequeathed the residue of his personal estate (which amounted to £280 for the use of the poor, and for teaching poor children to read. The property of the charity consists of 8 acres 36 poles of land, and £41/6/9 in the three per cents ; and the yearly income amounts to above £16.

When the parish was inclosed in 1788, two allotments, containing together 15 acres 3 roods 12 poles, were made to the poor in lieu of common rights.

The poor have likewise the dividends on £41/6/9 in the three per cents. The money with which the stock in the funds was purchased was derived from an allotment, made to the poor, by the award for inequality of fencing.

Mr. Fuller, of Newton Longville, left about half an acre of land, the rent of which is divided between poor widows of the parishes of Bradwell and Newton Longville.

St. James's Church, Stantonbury or New Bradwell.

This is dedicated to the Almighty in honour of St. James. The foundation stone of the building was laid by the chairman of the London and North-Western Railway Company, the Marquis of Chandos, on Monday the 24th of May, 1858 (the Marchioness of Chandos laying the first stone of the new school-building on the same day), and the church and burial-ground attached to it were consecrated by the bishop of Oxford, on Thursday the 6th of December, 1860, for the use of New Bradwell and Stantonbury, the latter living having been annexed.

The church is a handsome structure in the Early Decorated style of Gothic architecture ; and consists of a nave with a clerestory and side aisles, a chancel with a side aisle, and a tower and spire at the north-west angle of the building, which, when finished, will rise to an altitude of about 170 feet. It is built of Cosgrove stone with Ancaster dressings ; the seats are open, and of varnished oak ; the roofs are open

timbered; the flooring is composed of Minton's tiles of variegated colours; the font was given to the church by Lady Chandos; and the stone pulpit was presented by the foreman and workmen in the engine factory at Wolverton. The cost, as far as the edifice was completed at the time of its consecration, was £4,430. Of this the shareholders of the London and North-Western Railway subscribed about £2,560, and £1,870 had been raised by subscription. To complete the spire and upper part of the tower, it was then estimated that about £1,000 more would be needed. The architect of the church was Mr. E. Street, of London; the builder, Mr. J. Mills, of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The portions of old armour which are preserved in the church were brought from the old church of Stantonbury, for greater safety.

On the evening before the day of opening the church, the bishop arrived at Wolverton, and became the guest of J. E. Mc.Connell, Esq., superintendent of the Locomotive Department of the works of the railway company. On the following morning his lordship addressed about 2,000 working men of Wolverton, in the engine-shed, upon general topics; and then commenced the consecration of the church. The bishop, attended by his chaplains, was received at the west door by the Marquis of Chandos, as chairman of the railway company, and Mr. Mc.Connell, as a churchwarden of the parish, and after proceeding round the burial-ground, a procession was formed from the west door to the chancel; the consecration service was then proceeded with, on the noble marquis delivering the instruments of conveyance to the right reverend prelate. At the conclusion of the second lesson, the first baptism in the church was celebrated by his lordship—the subject being the infant son of Mr. Mc.Connell. The sermon was preached by the bishop, and the collection amounted to £140.

Subsequently about 150 ladies and gentlemen dined together in the large school-room, and amongst the guests were the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Marquis of Chandos, Archdeacons Bickersteth, Randall, and Clark, Earl and Lady Spencer, Earl and Lady Cowper, the Rev. A. P. and Lady Emily Cust, Lieut.-Col. Moorson, J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P., Captain Creed, T. G. Glyn, Esq., W. Lowndes, Esq., E. W. S. Lowndes, Esq., W. Fairbain, Esq. (Manchester), and a large number of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood. At this banquet the Rev. R. N. Russell, rural dean, on behalf of the working men of Wolverton, presented a handsome time-piece to the Rev. C. P. Cotter, incumbent of the parish. In the evening the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth preached in the church, and thus the proceedings of this interesting ceremonial were brought to a close.

Vicars of New Bradwell-cum-Stantonbury.

CHARLES PURCELL COTTER, M.A., was instituted in 1857. He was of rather eccentric habits, and having a great horror of being buried alive, left instructions in his will that some one, after the doctor had pronounced life extinct, was to run a long needle through the thick of his arm to prove that he was really dead. The person carrying out the operation to be rewarded for his trouble. He was succeeded by

A. C. WOODHOUSE, who was presented in 1891.

The Vicarage of New Bradwell.

The parsonage house is a good Gothic structure of red brick, surrounded by well kept grounds. It is approached by a carriage drive, leading from the Old Bradwell road on the out-skirts of New Bradwell.

The Nonconformists of Bradwell.

In Old Bradwell the Wesleyan Methodists have a small place of worship; and in New Bradwell the Primitive Methodists have a chapel in Thompson Street, and the Baptists have their place of worship in North Street.



THE COWPER CENTENARY MEDAL.

See appendix notes on Olney.

STONY STRATFORD.



THE TOWER OF
ST. MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH.

STONY STRATFORD is a small market town, in the north-western verge of the county, at the termination of the Watling Street Road, where it enters Northamptonshire, and is the principal line of communication between Dunstable, in Bedfordshire, and the former county. It is bordered on the north and north-east by Wolverton; on the south-east by Calverton; and on the west, by the river Ouse and Northamptonshire. The town has very little land belonging to it besides that on which the houses are built. The principal street runs nearly from east to west, not irregularly built, but very narrow. Besides being the great thoroughfare to Chester, Holyhead, etc., there is apparently not much traffic carried on. No considerable manufacture is carried on here, the chief support of the town being the Wolverton works.

There is a small weekly market here on Fridays; and three fairs, on 2 August, the festival of St. Mary Magdalen, for toys; 11 October (or Michaelmas fair); and 12 November. Browne Willis describes four annual fairs having been held

in his time, which had been granted by Charles II., in 1663, to Simon Benet and his heirs, viz., 9 April, Wednesday and Thursday in Whit week, the Friday before Michaelmas, and All Saints Day; but these seem to have been merely revivals of the more ancient grants to Hugh Vere, earl of Oxford, 1256; John Vere, earl of Oxford, in 1451; or perhaps Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford, to whom this manor, with Calverton and Whitchurch, had been previously granted; and of the

fair on the eve-day and morrow of St. Mary Magdalen, granted by a charter of confirmation to Hugh, earl of Oxford, in the reign of Edward I.

Stony Stratford is in the union of Potterspury, county court district of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery and archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford. It is situated 6 miles south-west from Newport Pagnell, 7 miles north-west from Fenny Stratford, 8 miles north-east from Buckingham, and 2 miles west from Wolverton Station.

The town was first lighted with gas in September 1838; connected with Wolverton, by a light railway, in 1886; and is supplied by water, from artesian wells situated on the Calverton road. The parish is much the smallest in the Hundreds, being only 70 acres in extent; the population is 1,943.

We are told that antiquaries derive the name of Stony Stratford from *Lech dur*, or *Lech rhyd*, one signifying the stone on the water, and the other the stone on the ford, a name bestowed upon it probably because the bank of the river Ouse was marked by a military stone on this great military road. It was no doubt owing to this great Roman road—Watling Street—which is called by some writers *Via Guethlinga*, and by others *Via Vittelina*, that gave to Stony Stratford a prominence to which it would otherwise never attained.

But to look at the modern character of many, indeed, the great majority of the houses, one would not be led to think that its history extended so far back. The cause of this is not far to seek, viz., the great fires in 1736 and 1742, which are dealt with later on.

Camden is of the opinion that the *Lactodero* or *Lactodorum* of the Romans was at this town, because its derivation, in the ancient British language agrees with the present name, both signifying “a river forded by means of stones.” Dr. Stukeley supposes that station to have been at Old Stratford on the Northamptonshire side of the river; and Dr. Salmon, at Calverton, an eminence close by, near the ford to Passenham, where the army of Edward the Elder was stationed whilst he fortified Towcester. Several of the best authorities place the Roman *Lactodorum* at Towcester. If, however, Stony Stratford has not been a Roman station or town, it would appear that there must have been a considerable Roman camp or other settlement here. Cole mentions that he added to his collection above one hundred Roman coins, besides other ancient objects discovered here. In the museum at Aylesbury of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society, is a Roman urn found at or near the bridge of Stony Stratford; and also a spur of the time of Henry v., which was found in the river. A Roman road is conjectured to have extended from Stony Stratford to Water Stratford, as this course is marked by the Roman remains found at Foxcot (Fosse-cote), at Castlefield, two miles from Foxcot, and in the parish of Buckingham, and again by remains found at Radclive and Tingewick.

Prior to the introduction of waggons, for the conveyance of goods to London, the town was a noted place of rendezvous for pack-horses.

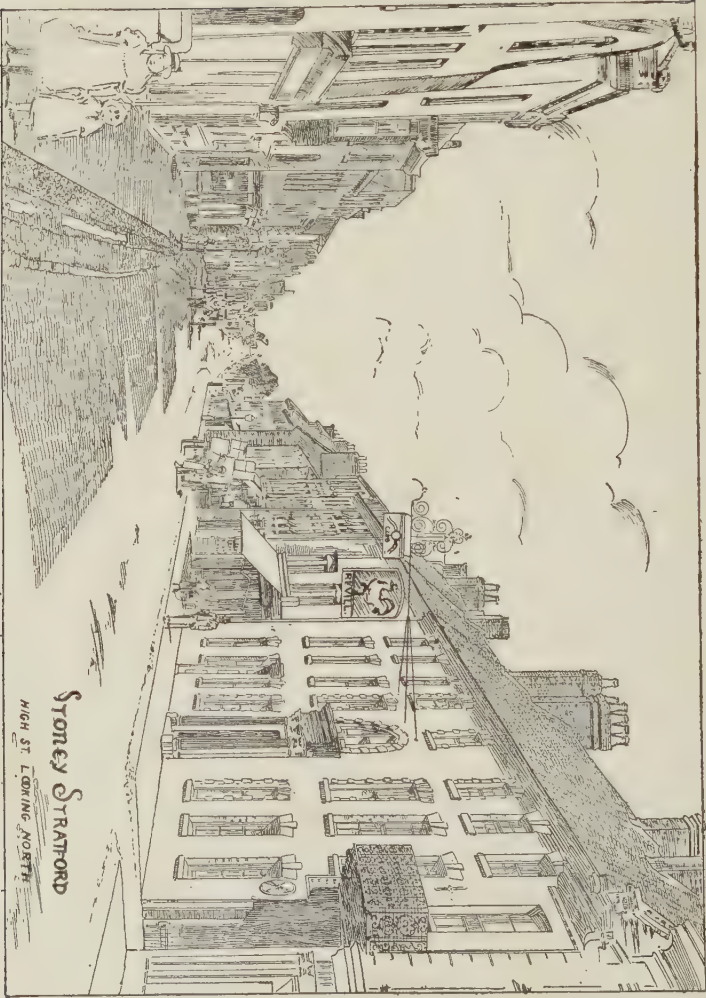
A reminder of the importance of Stony Stratford in the old coaching days is given by George Eliot in “Adam Bede,” because it is the place

where Hetty Sorrell takes the coach on her way to Windsor in search of Captain Donnithorne.

With Stony Stratford is associated some stirring events in the English history. It was in 1464, that Edward IV., went to be privately married at Grafton Regis church, to Elizabeth Widville, the ancestress of the present royal family. This lady's first husband, Sir John Grey of Groby, was a zealous Lancastrian, and after his death on the battle field of St. Albans, his estates were confiscated by the victorious Edward, and the widow, and her two sons, returned to Grafton Regis, 5 miles north-west from Stony Stratford, the seat of her father, Sir Richard de Widville, afterwards earl Rivers. Whilst the earl of Warwick was negotiating a marriage between the king and the sister of the queen of France, Edward, hunting in the forest of Whittlebury became enamoured of the Lady Grey, and sacrificed state policy to love. Baker, in his history of Northamptonshire, says :—"The popular tradition of the neighbourhood is, that the lovely widow sought the young monarch in the forest, for the purpose of petitioning for the restoration of her husband's lands to her, and her impoverished children, and met him under the tree still known by the name of "Queen's oak," which stands in the direct line of communication from Grafton to the forest. Ignorant of the king's person, she enquired of the young stranger if he could direct her to him, when he told her he himself was the object of her search. She threw herself at his feet and implored his compassion. He raised her from the ground, with assurances of favour; and captivated with her person and manners, accompanied her home, and in his turn, became a suitor for favours she refused to grant at the price of honour. Finding her virtue inflexible, he yielded to the force of passion and came from Stony Stratford to Grafton, early in the morning of the first of May (1464), and was married there by a priest; no one being present except the boy who served at mass, the Duchess of Bedford, and two of her gentlewomen." The calamities which fell upon her house are well known; and after a long recital of the sufferings of this ill-fated queen, the above historian concludes thus: "What were the pomps and pleasures of royalty, in comparison with the heart-rending catalogue of misery which resulted from her unexpected and dazzling elevation—her father earl Rivers, two of her brothers, Sir John Wideville, and Anthony earl Rivers, and three of her sons lord Leonard Grey, king Edward V., and the duke of York, successively murdered, and herself twice compelled, with her fatherless and unprotected children, to take refuge in a sanctuary; attainted and stripped of her possessions by a brother in law (Richard III.), and persecuted and imprisoned by a son-in-law (Henry VII)."

It was here the young king Edward V., and his cousin, were arrested, who were afterwards so cruelly murdered in the Tower of London, by the order of their uncle Richard, duke of Gloucester, in order to gain the crown himself. There are two accounts of the incidents connected with the arrest. One is as follows:

Now has the king, on his way to London, gone from Northampton, when the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham came hither



(Northampton), where remained behinde the Lord Rivers, the king's uncle, intending on the morrow to follow the king, and be with him at Stony Stratford, twelve miles hence, early e'er he departed. They tooke the way to Stony Stratford, where they found the king with his company, ready to leape on horse-back, and depart forward to leave that lodging for them, because it was too strait for both companies. As soone as they came into his presence, they alighted down with all their company about them, to whom the duke of Buckingham said, "Goe afore, gentlemen, and yeomen, keepe your roomes." In which goodly array they came to the king, and on their knees, in a very humble manner, saluted his grace, who received them in a very joyous and amiable manner, nothing knowing, nor mistrusting as yet what was done. And forthwith they arrested the Lord Richard, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Hawt, knights, in the king's presence, and brought the king and all his companie backe into Northampton, where they tooke again further counsell. (Speed's History of England, pp. 835-6).

The other account reads: "King Edward the Fourth being dead his eldest sonne Edward, scarce yet eleven years old, succeeded in the kingdome, but not in the crown; for he was proclaimed king, but never crowned: and indeed it may not be so properly called the reigne of Edward the Fifth, as the tyranny of Richard the Third; for from the time of king Edward's death, though not in name yet in effect, he not onely ruled as king, but raged as a tyrant. Prince Edward, when his father dyed, was at Ludlow in Wales. The duke of Gloucester was at this time in the north, but had word presently sent him of his brother king Edward's death, who had by his will, committed the young king, his queen, and other children, to his care and government. Whilst the young king was coming up to London with a strong guard, the duke of Gloucester finding his proceedings not fit for his designs, whilst protesting all faithful service to the king, persuaded him to dismiss his guard which might minister suspicions, or breed jealousies in them who were now thoroughly reconciled. The king dismissed his guard, and thus enabled the duke of Gloucester to carry out more readily his designs. The young king on reaching Stony Stratford, whither the two dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham arrived, but pretending the town too little for the entertainment of their companies, went back to Northampton and alighted at the same inn where the earl Ryvers had taken up his lodgings for the night, and intending to rise early the next morning and overtake the king. Upon this their accidental meeting, great shews of courtesy passed between them, and supper being ended, the dukes pretended weariness, retired to their lodgings, the earl to his; but the dukes being entered into their chambers, held a consulation with their private friends in which they spent a great part of the night; and then secretly got the keys of the inn gates, suffering none to pass either in or out; whereof the earl having notice by his host, though he suspected the worst, yet setting a good countenance on the matter, and trusting to his own innocency, he boldly went to the duke of Gloucester's chamber, where he found the duke of Buckingham and the rest closely

set in council; they laid their hands on him, charging him with many crimes, which only themselves were guilty of; and then taking order for his safe imprisonment, they speedily took horse and came to Stony Stratford. The very day in which the Lord Hastings was beheaded at London, and about the very same hour, there were beheaded at Pomfret, the Lord Rivers and the other lords and knights that were taken from the king at Northampton and Stony Stratford. The duke of Gloucester finally obtained his desires, and was crowned at Westminster, on the 18th June, 1483; soon married Anne, relict of prince Edward, although she could not be ignorant that he had been the author of both her husband's and father's death; and, on the 22d August, 1485, lost both his crown and life on the battle field of Rodmer, near Bosworth, in Leicestershire."

In connection with the above incident, Stony Stratford is mentioned by Shakespere in his tragedy of Richard III., act 2, scene 4:

Archbishop: Last night I heard they lay at Stony Stratford,
And at Northampton they do rest to-night;
To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.

Several engagements took place in the vicinity of Stony Stratford during the great rebellion, which terminated chiefly in favour of the parliamentary forces, but not always. The earl of Cleveland also maintained a station here, defeated the rebels in sight of Newport Pagnell, and repelled an attack upon his own quarters: where, however, he did not long continue. In the meantime, the king, who had been at Aylesbury, passed through Stony Stratford, to Woburn, where he resided at Bedford House. Also in June 1645, the Parliamentary forces, under Fairfax, passed through Stony Stratford, and on the 14th reached Naseby, where the famous battle was fought which resulted in the defeat of the Royalists. The old town is likewise mentioned in the first part of Sir John Oldcastle, 1600.

OSTLER: Tom's gone from hence: he's now at the Three Horse Loades (shoes?) at Stony Stratford. How does old Dick Dun?

CARRIER: Uds heart, old Dun has bin moyr'd in a slough in Brickhill Lane. A plague found it; yonder's such abominable weather as was never seen.

Mr. Sergeant Pigott willed, in 1519, that the town of Stony Stratford should have his inn there, called the Cock, towards the sustentation and reparation of the bridges.

In 1800, an Act of Parliament was obtained for paving, watering, lighting, and improving the streets, lanes, and other places within Stony Stratford, and for removing obstructions and annoyances therein; also for repairing the rampart-road or causeway leading from the town to the bridge over the river Ouse, and for repairing the said bridge.

On Friday morning, 19 February 1808, the inhabitants of this town were thrown into the greatest consternation, by information that arrived from Wolverton, that three large aqueduct arches under the high embankment, made about four years previously, for carrying the line

of the Grand Junction Canal across the valley, about a mile north of Stony Stratford, had fallen in, and that the river was so dammed up thereby, that the town must be shortly entirely inundated to a great depth. The fears of those who hastened to the spot were much allayed, by finding that one of these arches, which had been propped up underneath with timber, soon after the centres were struck, was still standing, and that this one arch, owing to there being no flood in the river, was able to carry off the water as fast as it came down.

Manorial History of Stony Stratford.

There is no mention of Stony Stratford in Domesday Book. This town being in two parishes, Calverton and Wolverton, is included in those two manors and leets; and had two churches or chapels. A long list of fines has been preserved, chiefly of small portions of property and houses in Stony Stratford.

In 1220, a fine was levied between John de Wolverton and Agnes his wife, and the prior of Bradwell and Agnes de Berengal, of lands in Calverton, and messuages in Stony Stratford, which were passed to the prior.

In 1231, a fine between William Buckingham and Isabell, countess of Oxford, of messuages in Stony Stratford, passed to Isabell and her heirs.

In 1247, a fine of lands in Stony Stratford, was passed from several persons, to Lettice, wife of Jeffrey le Fuler.

Fines were likewise passed of lands here in 1278, 1292, 1307, 1385, 1418 and in 1424.

In 1439, a fine of messuages and lands in Stony Stratford, Wolverton, and Calverton, was passed from John Rothwell, William Edy, John Loughton, and Thomas Syresham, and Ralph Braithwayt, of London, to Thomas Syresham.

In 1440, a message and rents in Stony Stratford, Wolverton, and Calverton, between Thomas More, William Edy, John Edy, junr., and William Tynck and Margaret his wife, which were to John Edy; who appears to have ultimately become possessed of all the estates here which had belonged to the family of Longueville; and which subsequently became vested in the Pigotts.

In 1550, a fine of messuages was also passed to John Forest; and in 1553, the king granted to Edward Fynes, Lord Clinton and Say, messuages and lands in North Marston, late belonging to the Fraternity or Guild of Stony Stratford.

In 1555, a grant was made to John Cheyne and Richard Duncumbe, of two cottages in Stony Stratford, belonging to the same Fraternity; which seems to have then been dissolved.

Queen Elizabeth granted, in 1563, to Sir Francis Knowles, knight, certain rents and services in Calverton and Stony Stratford, late belonging to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem; which in 1622, appear to have been by James I., granted to William Knowles, or Knollis, earl of Banbury, and the lady Elizabeth his wife. In the next year the

same king granted this estate, at the request of William, earl of Walingford, to Paul Carey and Henry Goodwin. This estate seems to have passed to the family of Bennet, of Calverton.

In English law, the word *fine* indicates an amicable composition by leave of the court, by which lands were declared to belong to one of the parties claiming them; and by it all the parties were barred who did not claim within a certain time. But 3 & 4 William IV., chap. 74, abolished fines and recoveries, and substituted more simple modes for assuring lands and barring estates tail.

The Guild or Fraternity of Our Lady of Stony Stratford.

This was incorporated in 1481, on the petition of divers persons, inhabitants, or proprietors of lands in and near the town; and among the petitioners on that occasion, was John Edy, lord of Beachampton manor, who had acquired the estate here, formerly belonging to the family of Wolff, whose heiress he married; and which subsequently came by descent, to Mr. Serjeant Pigott.

The guild was worth, above certain reprises, £12/9/2½ per annum. At the dissolution, Sir Henry Bailiffe and Sir William Keys, clerks, were returned as the incumbents; which "said two incumbents, of the age of 60 yeres, have yeirly for either of their stipends clere by yere £5/6/8. In all by yere £10/13/4. And the said incumbents have no other lyvinge but of this Fraternitie."

This guild was situated at the south-east extremity of the town, on the site now known as "The Retreat."

An ancient Hospital at Stony Stratford, is mentioned by Madox, which, he says, was founded before the year 1240. It is mentioned in a patent in 1352, as having a chapel belonging to it, on the causeway leading to the bridge; but Tanner seems to suppose that this hospital was on the Northamptonshire side of the river.

Ecclesiastical History of Stony Stratford.

Stony Stratford was the only town in Buckinghamshire that had two churches. Their names were, St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalene. In Ecton's valor, each church was returned at the value of £20/2/6 per annum.

Neither church had belonging to it, besides subscriptions, until 1676, any settled maintenance, when it was endowed by Edmund Arnold, who bequeathed, out of his estate at Furthoe, £20 per annum, free from all deductions, to the minister of Stony Stratford; and in 1679, Dr. William Clarke, dean of Winchester, devised by will £30 per annum to the officiating minister of Stony Stratford, out of his estate at Tillingham, in Essex. The minister, who officiated alternately at both churches, was chosen by twelve of the principal inhabitants, and licensed by the bishop.

The approximate value of the living at the present time is £308 per annum, the real net value being £298.

Extract from the last will and testament of Edmund Arnold, of Doctors' Commons, Esq.:

Being determined by the assistance of God to settle for the future my manor of Furthoe, after the decease of me and my wife, to charitable uses, I give £20 p'annum for ever for and towards the support and maintenance of an orthodox minister, who shall be licensed by and answerable to his Ordinary, in point of conformity, to read Divine Service at least on Sundays forenoon and afternoon, and perform other divine offices in one of the churches or chapels of the Towne of Stony Stratford. I give £10 p'ann. for ever, to be paid to the Vicar or Curate of Potterspury in Com' North'toⁿ towards the increase of his poor stipend or means, hoping that the impro-priator there will take it into consideration how far he is concerned with the cure of souls there, and augment the pitiful stipend. I will and devise the Perpetual Advowson, or Parsonage of Furthoe aforesaid unto the Principal, Fellows, and Scholars of Jesus College, in Oxford, for ever. Made 22 March 1675; proved 9 April 1676.

Curates of St. Giles' Church, Stony Stratford.

WITTS DE DONFORD, 1276.

RICHARD CHEYNE, about 1423 was "Capellanus de Stoney Stratford."

WILLIAM HEROSE, 1517.

STEPHANUS BYNG, 1521.

JOHN BRIGHT, in 1523.

RICHARD COOPER, occurs 1525 and 1535.

HENRY BAYLEY, 1547.

WILLIAM KEYS, 1547.

WILLIAM PURY, 1561; when it was returned that he was curate of St. Mary Magdalene, and that there was at that time no curate of St. Giles.

EDWARD ROGERS was minister in 1588.

WILLIAM FARINGDON is styled "curate" in 1598.

GEORGE WINSTANLEY, B.A., was presented by the inhabitants, and admitted by the bishop 19 September 1605, "minister" of Stony Stratford. He was in February following, made rector of Shenley; and died in 1629.

MATTHEW WALKEDEN succeeded him about 1607, and occurs minister here 1609. He was presented in 1620, to Pitchcott, and died rector there in 1633.

JOHN TOMSON, minister in 1616 and 1619. He is the first who subscribed the register. After him

THOMAS POOL was minister in 1644, but was ejected. He was also plundered, and forced to fly from his wife and children, and dying in his majesty's service left them in a very poor and deplorable condition. His widow was afterwards supported by the charity of the Corporation for Ministers' Widows

STEPHEN ALAMSON occurs minister 1645.

Benefice vacavit, 1650.

JOHN HATCH, occurs in 1653. He married, in 1661, Elizabeth Hartley, probably a daughter of William Hartley, mentioned under the heading of Parish Registers.

ROBERT DICKENSON, M.A., 1659, who was regularly admitted curate 19 March 1660; and was buried in St. Giles' church-yard 17 May 1661.

..... WALLINGTON succeeded 1661 and occurs 1663.

EDWARD BOURNE was admitted July 1665, and left it for St. John's Church, in Bedford, where he was living in 1712. His successor was

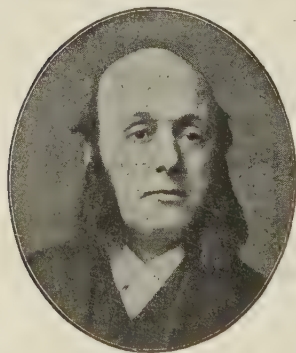
JOHN KNOWLES, B.A., admitted 28 October 1670.

ALEXANDER FEATHERSTON, M.A., was admitted 8 April 1673. He resigned being vicar of Wolverton.

RICHARD CORNEY, B.A., admitted 5 December 1676. He died 1690, being also rector of Little Woolstone, and was buried in St. Giles' Chapel. He was succeeded by

RICHARD HATCH, LL.B., admitted 1691. He appears to have taken an interest in the lace trade of the town, as a page in one of the registers is devoted to an account of lace which Richard and Katherine Hatch purchased and "sent as an adventure" to Virginia to William Hatch, in October 1701. Probably this William was his brother. One hundred and twenty-five yards at different prices were sent, in all amounting to £3 17s. 11d., and the accounts show that they

had in hand of William Hatch's £2 13s. 11d. He died, and was buried in St. Mary Magdalen's Chapel 22 September 1703; being succeeded by LEONARD SEDGEWICK, M.A., who was admitted 2 October 1703. He was also rector of Thornton in 1740, and prebendary of Lincoln. He died in 1747, and was buried in St. Giles' Church. His successor was THOMAS HOWARD, who was, in 1759, also presented by the Earl of Westmoreland, to a living near Peterborough. JOHN CRUCHLEY, in 1760. THOMAS BRADBURY, son to Mr. Bradbury, vicar of Willen Bonant, in Essex, an apothecary, was afterwards admitted for a short time. He was of St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, and had been curate to Mr. Howard during six or seven years. JOHN WILMER, in 1775. THOMAS PROPERT was instituted in 1779. He was the last elected by the parishioners. He died, 20 May 1800. SAMUEL STRUTT, in 1807. GEORGE DINELY, in 1809. CHARLES W. KIPPLING, presented 14 February 1810, by the Lord Chancellor. He died in 1840; and was succeeded by THOMAS BLEAMIRE, in 1849. WILLIAM BOND, M.A., instituted in 1841. CAMPBELL M. CHRISTIE. J. B. ANSTED, instituted 1858. WILLIAM THOMPSON SANKEY, was instituted in 1859. He can undoubtedly be



REV. W. T. SANKEY.

looked upon as one of the greatest benefactors of Stony Stratford, as he made so many improvements in the town. He was considered, by those who knew him and could appreciate his boundless kindnesses, to be a perfect English gentleman. He improved the appearance of Stony Stratford more than any man; notably by clearing away the very old thatched, mud and stone-built cottages, and erecting in their place what is now known as New Street. At the east end of the street, near the entrance to the vicarage grounds, he built a handsome infant school, which he put to the best of uses, both to educate the young and entertain the grown-up. The present vicarage was built through his influences, and he shared the pleasures of its well kept grounds with his parishioners, whom he frequently invited there after a service, in the summer evenings, to enjoy the cool shades of the well-wooded, and beautifully laid out grounds. He was the founder of the once important St. Paul's college. The church, too, underwent considerable modernization upon his institution. When the news of his death was received in the town, and spread broadcast by the muffled minute bell, on Whit Monday 1875, it completely spread a cloud over the annual holiday, for he had been one of the most energetic gentlemen to encourage this holiday, over which he spared no expense, so that the Oddfellows and Foresters should have the best regalia, and present an appearance worthy of their benevolent cause. He was succeeded by

GEORGE W. CORKER, a most eccentric man, and of high church principles, was instituted in 1875. Through his exertions the church was greatly altered in the interior and decorated as we see it now. He died, and was followed by JOHN MOORE LESTER, who was instituted in 1880. He was succeeded by HENRY DE ROMESTIN, who was instituted in 1885. He resigned; and WILLIAM MONTAGUE MILLER, M.A., was instituted in 1885. He resigned, and JOHN HERBERT LIGHT was instituted in 1895.

St. Giles's Church, Stony Stratford.

The present parish church is dedicated to St. Giles, the patron saint of cripples. Saint Giles, or Saint Egidus, who was born at Athens in 645, was a cripple, and though he had the means of obtaining all the comforts he wished, he would not, but devoted his life and his means in endeavouring to ameliorate the sufferings of the afflicted. Most churches dedicated to his name, are erected by the road side, the supposition for such being, that all weary travellers could enter and find rest and peace. The tower is a handsome embattled specimen in the Perpendicular style and contains a clock, and a peal of six bells, inscribed:

First : TAYLOR CAMPANARIUS OXFORD 1837 : 8.

Second : TAYLOR FECIT OXON 1837 : 8.

Third & Fourth : TAYLOR'S FECERUNT OXFORD 1837 : 8.

Fifth : TAYLOR'S BELLFOUNDERS OXFORD 1837 : 8.

Sixth : 1st Peter 2nd C 17th V. FEAR GOD. HONOR THE KING. W : &

J TAYLOR OXFORD BELL FOUNDERS 1837-8.

Sanctus : Uninscribed.

The height of the tower from the battlements to the ground is 80 feet. In the year 1757 the chancel, or at least the east end of it, was found to be so very ruinous that it was necessary to be taken down, and being reduced a little in size, was neatly rebuilt by Mr. Irons, of Warwick, and several years later, viz., 1776, the church was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, which is the only part standing of the original structure. The building was reseated in 1866. It is a lofty building, and consists of a nave, two side aisles, a chancel, and galleries on either side. The beauty of the church is principally constituted in the plastered groined ceiling, which is supported by eight clustered columns of iron, cased in wood. In 1892, the old vestry at the west end, the basement of the tower, being found inadequate, two new vestries were built, adjoining the north side of the chancel, at a cost of about £400. They were designed by Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, the contractors being Messrs. Mansfield and Buttrum, of Stony Stratford. The vestries were opened on Tuesday, October 27, 1892, a special sermon on the evening of that date being preached by the bishop of Reading. The vestries are English Gothic of the 13th century character, the clergy vestry being apsidal on plan, and the choir vestry covers the remainder of the available space. The partition separating the old vestry from the church, was subsequently taken away, and the space now forms a baptistry. There are tablets at each corner of the church, all placed very high. The large oval one over the organ is very much worn, and the inscription nearly obliterated; it is to the memory of Leonard Sedgewick, a former vicar. The large one on the opposite side of the church is as follows:—

B.R. a. 22.

Beneath are deposited the remains of
BARBARA RIPPINGTON,

only daughter of Charles Rippington, of Amington, in the county of Warwick, Esq. by his will one of the co-heiresses of Thomas Vernon, of Twickenham Park, Esq. : who died the 10th day of March, 1775, aged 22 years. To whose memory this monument, as a mark of his affection for her, is dedicated by her only brother, Charles Edward Rippington, Esq., of Amington aforesaid.

There is a slight doubt as to the correctness of the date, but we may infer that it was removed from some tomb or similar burial place, and built in the wall, when the church was rebuilt in 1776. On the tablet at the north-west corner is recorded the following :—

Sacred to the memory of

REV. THOMAS PROPERT,

late minister of this place, who departed this life May 20th, 1800, aged 50 years.
 "The memory of the just is blessed."

The tablet at the south-west corner bears the subjoined inscription :—

Sacred to the memory of

JANE CONGREVE,

wife of Mr. J. T. Congreve (of this place), who departed this life February 28th, 1810, aged 21 years.

The east window is a beautiful specimen of its kind, and contains representations of the 12 apostles with their names inscribed beneath. This was erected to the memory of the Rev. W. T. Sankey, who died in 1875, by his widow and son. There are two other large stained windows, the one on the north side being to the memory of the Rev. George William Corker, M.A., at one time vicar of Stony Stratford, who died 9 June 1880, and Lady Charlotte, his wife, who died 18 November 1879. The large window on the south side is to the memory of Josiah Michael and Ann Smith. There are six small stained windows under the galleries, dedicated to former people, notably two to the memory of the late Rev. J. Spark, a former curate, who died abroad. It was this gentleman who devised by his will £50 towards providing better vestry accommodation, and this money formed the nucleus of a fund for building the new vestries, before alluded to. Near the vestry door is an oil painting in a gilt frame, over which is a gilt dove, and the following inscription is appended to the frame : "This painting, illustrating the epistle for Quinquagesima Sunday, with the gilded dove which surmounted the pulpit in this church in the 18th and earlier part of the 19th century, and here placed by William Osborn Boyes, who died 25th May, 1896, and for many years churchwarden of this parish."

Amongst the epitaphs to be found in St. Giles's churchyard, are :
 Here lies the body of Francis Penn, who departed this life January 30th, 1794, aged 22.

Short was my time,
 Long may be my rest,
 God took me away
 Because he thought it best.

Another is inscribed "To the memory of Edward Reynolds, who, for 30 years, was sexton in this parish. He was harmless and of ready wit. He died July 12th 1791, aged 79 years."

At each end of the family vault of the late William Boyes, may be seen flat gravestones to the memory of Mark Boyes and Elizabeth Boyes, who died in 1712, and these were brought from the old church yard of St. Mary Magdalene, where the bodies were buried. How many people have passed these stones to and from St. Giles' church without noticing the following inscription on the stone of Elizabeth Boyes?—

This is her praise—
She past this mortal life
A tender mother and a careful wife.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Stony Stratford.

Great interest attaches itself to the old tower of the church of St. Mary Magdalene, and the inhabitants are proud of the unique and valuable relic, speaking so eloquently, as it does, of the past. It has been mentioned by many writers, which proves with what curiosity it is regarded. The church is supposed to have been built about the beginning of the reign of Edward I., towards the end of the 13th century. It was burnt down by the great fire of 1742, with the exception of the tower, the church never having been rebuilt. Browne Willis,* the antiquarian, who exerted himself very much among his friends in raising subscriptions for the sufferers by the fire, tells us that he caused nearly £30 to be expended about two months after the fire, in setting up, leading, and new roofing the "burnt tower" of St. Mary Magdalene, in order to preserve it, to have the church re-built to it again. The walls were then pointed "withinside and without," and the arches filled up to preserve it from taking damage, insomuch "that the tower is made as firm as possible." The old tower is buttressed and embattled, and has gurgoyles at the angles, which are deemed unique, and form illustration to the Imperial Dictionary. There is a good pointed doorway in the west side, and good pointed windows in the upper storey. Attached to the east wall of the tower were two tablets as seen on the sketch of the tower, inscribed to the memory of Ann Sleath, who died in 1812, and Thomas Sleath, who died in 1834—relatives of Dr. Sleath; head master of St. Paul's School, London.

At the time of the fire the tower was almost untouched, but the beams supporting the bells were burnt, causing the bells to fall into the church yard, where they lay broken for some years. Old towns people who were alive some sixty years ago say their parents could remember this, and had told them the metal was given or sold to St. Neots. This is borne out by the fact that the bells of St. Neots were cast in 1753, eleven years after the fire, and are six in number. St. Mary Magdalene possessed six bells which must have gone somewhere. St. Giles then only had five.

* For an account of Browne Willis, see Bletchley.

There were, till 1688, but four bells, when Piercy Longracke (steward or bailiff to the family of Longueville, of Wolverton, who lived at the Malletts, in Stony Stratford, and was buried in St. Mary Magdalene's chapel, 15 February 1698), gave a treble with this inscription round the crown :

That Monmouth and his rebels fell
I Piercy Longracke gave this bell.

At the Revolution, being reflected on, and threatened, to be called to account for his rhyme, to acquit himself he promoted the casting of the five bells into six, which was done about 1689. They all weighed about 63 cwt.; the fifth weighed 1,300 pounds, and the biggest or tenor 2,000 pounds.

On a slab of grey marble, in the chancel, was the effigy of a man in brass, in armour with sword in hand, and at the four corners were symbols of the apostles. Between the two uppermost was a plate of brass which had been torn off, and between the two lower ones were the effigies of two children, in brass. At the man's feet, this inscription : Here lyeth Edward Fynes, son and heir of Richard Fynes which was sometime Lord Say, and the lord of the manor of Broughton in Cty. Oxon; the which decised out of this transitory world to the mercy of God the VII. day of July in the year of our Lord GOD, MCCCCXXIX. which had issue two sons and seven daughters by Margaret his wife, which was one of the daughters of Sir John Danvers, Knt., Lord of Dantsey in the county of Wiltshire.

In the north aisle there was another slab bearing the effigies of a man and woman in brass, with the following inscription : Orate pro animia Johis Edy et Alicie uxoris ejus ; quie obitt xviii. die January ao. dni. MCCCCLXIX. Quora animabus propicietur Deus. The tower stood at the west end of this aisle.

In 1493, James Edy willed to be buried in St. Mary Magdalene's chapel.

The tower has stood in its present condition for over a century and a half, and it is hoped it will stand for centuries to come, as a memorial of the church in the time when things were not so smooth as they are now—when people were not free to worship as they liked.

Many of the inhabitants of the town remember the tree, which was formerly at the top of the tower. It was supposed to have grown from a seed dropped by a bird, however, picturesque as it appeared, it was noticed that the roots were pushing out the stonework at the corner and consequently, the inhabitants in their love of preserving one of the most beautiful gems of architecture in the neighbourhood, could not let the tree remain, and it was removed in 1893 and the tower restored.

The following report was then made on the tower by Mr. E. S. Harris :

"The tower of St. Mary Magdalene's church (though but a fragment of what must have been a very beautiful church) is a precious heritage, which we should all value very highly. It is the work of an able but unknown architect of the latter half of the fourteenth century, and has

many features about it of a passing notice. It has been illustrated in *Parker's Glossary*. Among these we may mention the almost Italian method of dispensing with buttresses, for those used are too shallow to deserve the name. Its belfry stage is of singular beauty and faultless proportion. The gurgoyles are full of quaint humour. The parapets form a beautiful compromise between the ordinary English embattled and the 'saddle-back' type found in Normandy and the Isle of France or rather they might well be described as a happy union of these two beautiful types. Its whole character is made up of exceeding delicacy, refinement, and reserve. It has been carefully repaired, and no more than was absolutely necessary had been done, in order to ensure the safety of a building, alas! too long allowed to suffer from past neglect."

The church yard was formerly much larger, but being ill enclosed and little cared for, "trimmings" were taken off it by the owners of the adjoining property.

On one of the tombstones in the church yard may be seen the following curious epitaph:

Here lies a body who did no good,
If it had lived it never would.
Where its gone or how it fares,
Nobody knows and nobody cares.
If I don't live to tell the tale;
Put it on my last grave rail.

The Parish Registers of Stony Stratford.

The registers date back to 1613, and had formerly gone back to 1605, but the first leaves are now missing. The first one that can be read, contains the name of Foddy, one of the church wardens. Between the years 1630-8 there are four burials of "cripples." It is rather suggestive that their burial here is connected with the fact that St. Giles is the patron saint of cripples. No such entry occurs later.

From 1640 onwards, there is frequent mention of "souldiers" in the registers. This place being on the main road from London, soldiers were frequently quartered here, and sometimes for months at a time. They often died, and occasionally there is an entry of their marriage, or the baptism of a child. They do not seem to have elevated the morals of the town, judging from the registers.

Many of the names which now exist in the town are found in the earliest entries. Soon after 1600, there is Barley, Benbo, Britten, Cowley, Claridge, Foddy, Godfrey, Holloway, Jeffs, Osborn, Pollard, Ratley, and many others.

In 1653 Parliament passed a law requiring the clergy to give up their register books to laymen, who were to be called the Parish Registers. In Stony Stratford this law seems to have been evaded, the registers being kept according to law on the *West* side only, while the parish clerk, John Godfree, continued to keep the registers on the East side, and he expressed his indignation in a verse in the old registers as

follows :

Soe far goeth this register book for both sides,
But an Act of Parliament doth devides ;
Wherefore they a new register book doth make,
And choose another man, the same to undertake.
Thus, I, from this labour on the West side cease,
And proceed on the East side, in love and peace.

It is inexplicable why he was allowed to retain one register, but Puritan influence was not very strong, and probably Mr. Godfree was a gentleman of determination. He died in 1660, and was succeeded by his son Thomas. This Thomas was a currier, he died in 1720, after being clerk for sixty years. He had an enormous family of daughters ; one every year for about a dozen years.

From 1653, until the Restoration, the baptisms are entered as "burthes and baptizings" to accommodate those who refused to have their children baptised ; and the West side register has "The burthes of such children whose parents are of the baptised Church differing from the National Way."

"William Hartley, Anabaptist," whose signature appears on the first page of the new register for the West side, was apparently a justice.

The cover of one of the registers has the following written upon it : The Parish Church of St. Giles, in Stony Stratford, was on Monday, y^e 4th day of March 1776, began to be taken down in order to be rebuilt. The parish of St. Mary Magdalene having been united to that of St. Giles in 1775. The foundation stone of the new Church was begun April 5th, 1776, the same day being good Friday.

The entries at times seem to have been made without much care as the following will fully illustrate :

- 1662. Ye old Miller. Buried.
- 1665. A child of ye silk weavers. Burried.
- " Old Knockstoan, ye pavier buried.
- 1666. Anthony at the Crown buried.
- 1669. A stranger at workhouse buried.
- 1671. Gyles Penn married a maid att Swann.
- Green's maid of Shenley married one of Whoddon.
- William Davis & ye maid at Bull.
- 1763. Sussanna Hill poor sarvant gall burned.

In 1672, the clerk evidently heard of a receipt which he wanted to immortalise, for written in the register is : 1d. venus turpentine, spunful white flower, spunful white peper, soap nut. History does not record whether for internal or external application.

The first instance of a child bearing more than one Christian name occurs in 1712.

In 1736, and for some years, there are a great many illegitimate births ; the rate of 8 or 10 per cent. being the average. In 1773, it rose to the enormous rate of 27 per cent, the "reputed father's" name being given nearly in every case as a soldier. Very few of these children lived more than a few weeks or months. Infant mortality during the 18th century was terrible all over England ; here it was usually from

33 to 50 per cent. of the total deaths ; in 1779 it rose to 75 per cent.

In 1811, Eliz. Smith or Betty Bothsides was buried. She was born in 1800, and was probably a parish child, who neither parish would own—hence her nickname.

In 1742, the year of the great fire, there are no entries of any sort in the registers.

After 1812 the registers are uniformly kept and cease to be interesting.

The Nonconformists of Stony Stratford.

The origin of the Baptist cause at Stony Stratford can be traced to the earliest stages of nonconformity, being founded in 1625. With the chapel is associated some thrilling incidents of an historical nature, and the cause has passed through many trials and difficulties, notably when the Puritans suffered such severe persecution under the Stuarts. Nonconformists in early days were debarred from meeting in public worship, and consequently were obliged to meet in conventicles, the penalty of which, if found out, was imprisonment, and frequently death.

The term "conventicle" originally meant a secret assembly of the monks of a convent, generally to secure the election of an abbot. In its modern sense, it was applied to the meetings of the followers of Wycliffe, but became later to mean an assembly for worship of those who departed from the established church, and in this sense was associated both in England and Scotland with the tyranny of the Stuarts. There are several relics of ancient days in the chapel, chief among which is an old window frame, bearing the following inscription:—"This old window frame was taken out at the rebuilding of the chapel in 1823. It is the one through which our nonconformist fore-fathers used to escape into a wood, adjoining the chapel, during the time of persecution under the Conventicle and Five Mile Acts in 1665."

In 1701, it is recorded in the parish registers that "Widow Wheeler was buried at the *Cofferidge*." The field adjoining the Baptist chapel has borne the name of "Cofferidge" or "Coffereys" for centuries. It was probably a corruption of Godfrey's Close," i.e., the owner's name. This is the first time a burial at the chapel is entered. Burials were, by law, compelled to be entered in the church registers.

There are also preserved an old brass candlestick, and snuffer tray, the former bearing the date 1607. There are several other old candleholders.

The other nonconformist places of worship are comparatively modern, and do not warrant any particular notice ; suffice it to say that the Congregational church dates from 1823, and the Wesleyan from 1844.

The Schools of Stony Stratford.

St. Paul's College, situated in the High Street, is the largest building in the town. It was started in 1863, by making alterations to a few private houses and the building of a small class room. This was during the vicarage of the Rev W. T. Sankey. It was opened as a high-class school, and soon attained considerable importance in the scholastic

world, under the careful and splendid management it commenced with. The management having changed to hands of men who ruled as tyrants, and wielded the birch incessantly, its reputation as a school soon became ruined, and when they retired from the wardenship the school soon collapsed, lingering on, under fresh management until 1882. In 1888, after extensive alterations, it was again opened, but it was found necessary to close it again in 1895. The chapel, a handsome building in the Gothic style was one of the last additions to the college. It is a beautiful structure, having a spire of considerable height, which gives light to the chancel. The interior was decorated regardless of cost, both in carving and painting; the chancel was done in water-colours, and depicted the life of St. Paul. The exterior of the spire was considerably gilded. It contains a large school room, reading room, class room, a small school room, bath room, a splendid dining hall, large drill hall, work shop, chemistry room, and a gymnasium, containing the most modern appliances. There is also a good-sized play ground and a field of four acres in extent. Dr. Brackenbrush was appointed head master when the college was re-opened in 1888, and at his death he was succeeded by the Rev. H. C. Jollye, who remained until it was closed. It now answers the requirements of an orphanage.

The present National Schools date back a good many years. They were rebuilt in 1858, and have been subsequently enlarged. In connection with these schools there is a charity known as the "Rose and Crown" (see Michael Hipwell's charity), the funds of which are invested in the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Church of England. A large part of this charity was used in building additions to the schools. The amount now derived from the charity is £18 per annum.

The British School is a neat, spacious building at the south end of the High Street, erected in 1844, by subscription, at a cost of about £750. The upper room of this school is used for lectures, public meetings, concerts, etc.

St. Mary's Schools are situated in Wolverton end, and were built to meet the needs of the growing population.

Queen Eleanor's Cross at Stony Stratford.

A cross was erected here by Edward I., to mark the spot at which the corpse of Queen Eleanor rested, in 1291, on the way from Harley in Nottinghamshire, where she died, to Westminster Abbey, the place of her interment. Crosses were erected at Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Northampton, Stony Stratford, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham, London (Charing Cross), and Westminster. Of these monumental crosses, the number of which has been variously stated at 15, 13, and 10, those at Geddington, Northampton, and Waltham alone remain. The crosses were more or less elaborately adorned, and Edward's design, in erecting them, is stated to be not merely to preserve the memory of the queen, but to induce passengers to stop at them and offer up prayers for the eternal welfare of her soul. The

cross here was demolished during the turbulent times of Charles I., probably about 1646, and it stood at the north-western extremity of the town, about fifty yards on the London side of the present gas works, and on the east side of the street, where it falls back somewhat.

The architect of this cross was John de Bello. It was of small dimensions, and was not to be compared with that of Northampton. Camden say it was "None of the fairest."

The Great Fires at Stony Stratford.

The town has twice suffered considerably from two accidental fires; in 1736, when 53 houses were burnt down; and again in 1742, which consumed 146 houses, and the church of St. Mary Magdalene, said to have been built about the beginning of the reign of Edward I., and was never afterwards rebuilt; the tower alone escaped the flames, and it remains to this day. The damage on this occasion was estimated at £15,901; towards which, £4,295, was collected by a brief, and nearly £3,000 by subscription.

The latter conflagration, according to the *Northampton Mercury*, of 10 May 1742, originated at the Bull Inn, from the carelessness of a servant, who, on getting up the linen after a wash and drying it before the fire, discovered a sheet burning, and hearing her mistress's voice—a passionate woman, of whom she stood in fear—to avoid her anger, thrust it up the chimney, which set fire to the premises, and afterwards, the wind being high and several of the houses thatched, burnt down nearly all houses on both sides of the town downwards, and several of those in Old Stratford, which is in the county of Northampton, separated from Stony Stratford by the bridge and river Ouse, nearly half a mile distant from where the fire commenced, and where the present hotel of that name now stands.

The bishop of Lincoln addressed the following pastoral letter to the clergy of the diocese, earnestly recommending the sufferers to their charitable attention:

GOOD BROTHER,

The inhabitants of Stony Stratford, in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, who about six years ago sustained a heavy loss by fire to the amount of six thousand pounds, have now again, by a second dreadful fire in May last, had the terrible affliction to see 146 of their houses, together with one of their churches, burnt to the ground; the loss of their houses and goods, as I am informed, amounting to no less than £15,000; great in itself, and greater still by coming so close upon the former. Now, as these unhappy people are not only our near neighbours, but brethren of the same house, and of the same church and diocese with ourselves, to other argument which plead for them to the rest of the world, I cannot but add my special commendations of them to your brotherhood, with my most earnest intreaties that when their care shall come to your parish, you will use your best endeavours to have it received with the affection and tenderness that is due to their proximity of relation. I pray God to have you and yours always in His good keeping, and remain, your ever loving brother,

R. LINCOLN.

Dated at our Triennial Visitation at Buckingham,
July 13th, 1742.

Neither the loss of the church, nor the damage sustained by the estate of the Radcliffe trustees, the former estimated at £2,000, and the latter at £4,000, are computed in the above-mentioned sum of £15,901, consequently the total damage amounted to nearly £22,000.

The Old Workhouse Yard, Stony Stratford.

This name, through the munificence of Mr. F. W. Woollard, has been relegated to the past. The houses in this yard, situated on the east side of the town, were demolished in 1893. Though they were old and historical, they were no improvement to the appearance of the town. Five almshouses and two fine shops were erected on the site, and the almshouses are now known as "The Retreat." It is interesting to know that the old property was once owned by the families of the duke of Beaufort and Sir John Mordant, and that in the year 1800, it passed into the hands of the Right Hon. George John Earl Spencer. A few interesting relics were found when the houses were demolished. Large quantities of heavy masonry were found in different parts of the ruins, from which it is probable that the buildings of the Guild or Fraternity stood here. A very interesting monastic window was preserved and built in the court yard of the new property, together with other proofs of bygone grandeur. The most interesting relic discovered was either a piscina or holy water stoupe. It was found buried in one of the cellars or vaults, and from the best evidence that could be gathered, was probably of the 14th century date. It now serves as a flower vase in Mr. Woollard's grounds.

The Retreat was dedicated on 14 September 1893, at a meeting presided over by the late Right Hon. Sir Harry Verney, bart., when the deeds of the almshouses were handed over to the trustees.

Watling Street.

A small portion of this ancient street forms the principal thoroughfare in Stony Stratford. Watling Street was the chief military road of the Romans; it began at Dover, passed through London, St. Albans, Dunstable, Stony Stratford, etc., into North Wales, and was used, so the poet says, by the Romans

"To awe the British race."

If we wish to trace its early history, we should have to go back far beyond the advent of McAdam, the troublous times of the Stuarts, or the Wars of the Roses; yea, back even beyond the days of the Norman Conquest to the time when Julius Cæsar landed on the coast of Kent. Watling Street is generally admitted to have been made by the Romans but antiquarians tell us that even then there was an old British track way in existence. But whether that was so or not, it must be admitted that the Romans made it good and substantial road, and it has remained to this day one of the most important highways in the country. After the evacuation of Britain by the Romans, Watling Street appears to

have fallen into partial decay as we learn that the roads were in a very bad condition, making much travelling almost impossible. It makes one wonder whether the breaking of heads was much more to the popular taste than the breaking of stones? The roads were so bad that when the king or other important personage wished to pay a visit to a particular town, the prior was commanded to "mend his wicked ways," *i.e.*, get his roads in good repair. About 1594, William Duncombe, of Battlesden, "gave and bequeathed £10, to be bestowed and employed yearly, towards the making of foot bridges and the amending of the highways between Puddle Hill Foote and Little Brickhill Lane."

In the year 1705 this road between Hockliffe and Stony Stratford had become so bad as to be almost impassible. The laws then in force were not sufficient for the "effectual repairing and amending of the same." As the inhabitants of the parishes through which the road passed were unable to repair it, being unable to obtain sufficient material for the purpose, except at a great distance from the road, something was needed to remedy this state of affairs, and an Act of Parliament was passed at the commencement of last century, called an "Act of repairing the highway between Fornhill, in the county of Bedford, and the town of Stony Stratford, in the county of Bucks."

The names of the trustees first appointed, to put the Act in execution were the Hon. Charles Leigh, Esq., Sir Richard Temple, Sir John Wittewronge, Sir Pynceut Chernocke, Sir Harry Tyrrel, Sir Edmond Denton, Sir Joseph Alston, baronets; Sir Charles Duncombe, Sir Roger Hill, Sir William Millarn, knights; Allen Bathurst, Browne Willis, Thomas Maynard, Richard Hampdon, esquires; Thomas Busby, doctor of laws; Francis Duncombe, Thomas Ligor, Simon Mayne, William Johnson, Henry Andrews, Thomas Chapman, John Rogers, William Edgell, Nehemiah Brandreth, William Norcliffe, John Knapp, Alexander Denton, Ebenezer Sadler, William Farrer, esquires; James Selby, sergeant-at-law; John Hillesden and Thomas Bristow, gentlemen.

In these days, money was not so easily collected as now. There was no thought of making a rate, and purchasing a thousand tons of granite and other material. Under this useful Act, power was given to the above trustees, and the survivors of them, "or any seven or more of them, to create, or cause to be created, a gate or gates, turnpike or turnpikes," at certain places along the road. Every person in charge of a coach, chariot, or calash (a light carriage with movable hood) before passing through it had to pay a shilling, and furthermore, to quote from the Act, there were also directions as follows:—"Every waggon, cart, or carriage loaden with grain, sixpence; every other waggon, one shilling; for every other cart eightpence; and for every horse, one penny. Every chaise with a single horse, sixpence; every score of oxen, sixpence; every score of sheep or lambs, one penny; and so on in proportion. For every score of hogs, threepence." The money thus received as toll was to be laid out in mending the road, "and for as much as the money so to be collected by such receipt of the said toll, was not considered to be a quick enough method of raising such a stock

or sum of money, as may be sufficient for the speedy repairing of the premises," it was further enacted that the trustees were empowered to borrow "any sum or sums of money," and to secure the repayment thereof with interest "at the rate of six pounds per centum per annum."

The first turnpike in the country was legally erected in 1663, under the Act just quoted, and any person passing through the gates, and paying toll, and returning the same day before eight o'clock at night, "between the months of September and February, and between ten o'clock at night during the other months of the year," was to go through free, as were also "any carts with hay not going to any market, or corn in the straw in hay time or harvest-time." The same rule applied to troops with prisoners, soldiers upon the march, and any carts and waggons attending them, and all persons riding *post*. This toll was to commence from the 1st of May, 1706, and to be continued for 21 years, after which, if the road was "sufficiently repaired and amended," and all borrowed money repaid with interest, it was to cease. The toll-gates were, however, continued for a much longer period. The direct turnpike road was much improved at the time of completing the Grand Junction Canal in this part of its course.

In describing the improvements made in this road, and others in the vicinity, an old writer says: "It is only an act of justice to a most meritorious and talented individual, to allude to the remarkable changes which have been effected in the course and condition of them through the generous example and constant activity of Gilbert Fletcher, Esq., of the neighbouring town of Towcester, who may be considered the parent, as well as the patron of a judicious appropriation of manual labour in that excellent scheme, which under his personal superintendence, has greatly facilitated the conveyance of every description of merchandise through this populous part of the country, and secured more safety and expedition to travellers of every rank, from the highest to the most humble classes, by having converted some of the districts' most dreary and incommodious roads in this country into cheerful, safe, and pleasant lines of communication."

Watling Engineering Works, Stony Stratford.

The only place of business of any importance, is the Watling works, which were started for agricultural engineering but are now principally employed in the building of small steam boats of various descriptions.

In connection with the inventions, emanating from these works, there was a steam ploughing meeting at Stony Stratford in the early part of September 1861, to test the capabilities of the machinery designed by this firm and the inventions of Mr. Smith, of Little Woolstone (see page 341).

This was a large gathering of influential gentlemen and practical farmers, friends of steam tillage, and social progress; among whom was his Grace the Duke of Grafton. A trial of steam implements took place on a field near the town, on the estate of the Radcliffe Trust; Mr. Hayes, of the Watling Works, furnishing a steam engine, windlass, and

tackle. The windlass was one which Mr. Hayes had invented and patented, and to which a silver medal was awarded at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, recently held at Leeds. It is said to have attracted much attention at that great exhibition, among practical men; and its beautiful action was fully tested at Stony Stratford, proving that a single cylinder engine, with this windlass, is all that is required to cultivate the land successfully. The implements used were Smith's Cultivator and Hancock's Pulveriser, and both did their work satisfactorily.

The results of the trials were considered very good: the piece of ground being completed during the day time, and a portion cross cultivated after the moon had risen.

At the conclusion of the ploughing, the company adjourned to the Watling Works, which had been tastefully fitted up, and arrangements made for accommodating from 400 to 500 persons with tea and refreshments. A platform was erected in the middle of the large workshop, to which the decorations imparted quite a gay and ball-like-appearance; and the whole was lighted up with gas, made on the premises. In the course of half-an-hour this spacious building was filled with elegantly and well dressed ladies, and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. During the repast the ear was regaled with sweet sounds, which filled the building, from a first-rate volunteer orchestra, vocal and instrumental. The tables being removed, the chair was taken by James E. McConnell, Esq., of Wolverton Park, who after an eloquent address, introduced Mr. Hancock, of London, who delivered an interesting lecture on the science of agriculture. After speeches from Mr. Hayes and others, the meeting separated, the National Anthem being first sung.

The Malletts and Wolverton Lane, Stony Stratford.

The ancient and bygone estate known as Malletts, appears to have been a considerable one, though almost forgotten. It adjoined the east end of St. Mary Magdalene's churchyard, and extended over several acres towards Wolverton and Old Stratford, and was probably bounded to a considerable extent, by the river Ouse.

The mansion, which was a large one, was occupied in the 17th and in the early part of the 18th century by the stewards, or bailiffs, of the family of Longueville, of Wolverton. The property retained the name until about the middle of the present century, when the estate was cut up, and this portion was purchased by William Golby, at that time an affluent townsman.

In 1713, the de Longueville property passed into the hands of Dr. Radcliffe (see page 282), who died in the following year, and curiously enough, in the same year, Sir Edward Longueville was found lying dead in the road between Wolverton and Stony Stratford. The Radcliffe trustees pulled down the old manor house, vicarage, and church of Wolverton, and therefore the decay of the Malletts' estate was also probably due to their negligence.

About 1830, the old mansion having become very delapidated, it was pulled down, with the exception of a small portion which was retained as a barn, until 1865, when Mr. Golby thoroughly renovated it, and adding another story, converted it into a comfortable cottage, which was known as "The Ring." The walls of the lower portion of this house are of stone and of considerable thickness; whilst the upper walls are of nine-inch brick.

The cottage derived the name of the Ring owing to the triangular portion of ground at the rear of the Three Swans, and which it adjoins, being used for practice and breaking in of the horses of the above inn. The circle made by the horses was intact when the present house was built—hence its name—but of late years it has grown over and entirely disappeared. Several traces of foundations have been noticed at various times upon this site.

In close proximity are several small ponds, which are very probably remnants of what have been, more pretentious ones, which used to supply the house with fish. It has often been wondered why the small paddocks around this spot should be walled with stone, whilst those a short distance off, are not so. It can be assigned to the fact, that there being so much material at hand when the mansion was demolished, it was found more convenient to use the stone for the fences.

There are several entries in the parish records in reference to the Malletts, among which are the following :

John Edy, in his will dated at Malletts, 20 September 1487, desired to be buried in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, in Stony Stratford, and bequeathed various sums as follows: Ad opus Scti. Egidii 6s. 8d.; to the carver for making the roof of St. Mary Magdalene chancel, £8; towards making the gabell window, 40s.; to St. Giles' steeple, 40s., and if not made in two years the 40s. was to go to St. Ann's Isle, at Bradwell.

This St. Ann's Isle at Bradwell would be one of the six aisles, or chantries in the church of Bradwell Abbey.

In 1587, John Penn died on the 9th of August, possessed of one messuage called the Malletts in Stony Stratford, in Wolverton parish, late belonging to Pigott, of Beachampton, who had it by marriage with Isabell, daughter of John Edy, who died at the Malletts exactly one hundred years before.

Tradition says that about sixty years ago a soldier was tied to a triangle and publicly flogged in the field adjoining the Ring, which has a foot path crossing to Wolverton.

The Malletts was adjacent to a road-way known as Wolverton Lane, now Russel Street. This thoroughfare was evidently of as much importance as the main street. Commencing at Wolverton Road it ran parallel with Watling Street, until it reached the spot where the gas works now stand, when it deviated and joined the old Roman roadway, in a similar way to what Silver Street and Mill Lane, on the West side lead out at the rear of the Barley Mow Inn. At intervals, Wolverton Lane was connected with the street, by the following passages or alleys :

Swan Yard, a narrow passage running into Wolverton Lane by the

old stone house known as Stratford Place; on the other side of the lane it continued on to Wolverton, and was known as the Leys.

The next alley went under a pawn-broker's shop from the High Street. It contained a few mean houses which were pulled down by the Rev. W. T. Sankey, and is now known as New Street. This pathway was continued on the West side, down the side of the George inn, this portion being known as the Hobby.

Another was the passage at the side of Mr. Bridgeman's house, which contained a few cottages.

Then followed Church Passage, by St. Mary Magdalene's, which is still an unbroken pathway from Wolverton to Passenham, via the Cross Keys Yard.

Coach and Horses Yard was of rather more importance, and it contained eighteen houses.

The last one being Pudding Bag Lane with its eleven houses.

History is silent as to the cause or who was responsible for the curtailment of these thoroughfares.

The Market Square, Stony Stratford.

There is a fine old market square in Stony Stratford, where a weekly market used to be held at one time, but now there is only a monthly market for cattle. The old market house was a poor building, supported by rough wooden posts, but that was demolished some sixty years ago. One can fancy the old rustics coming into market, congregating together, and eagerly discussing the news. "The cage," a place in olden times for securing offenders against the public peace, and the stocks, were formerly located on the market place.

The inhabitants, owing to the dilapidated state of the "cage," agitated for a new lock-up, and their agitation was successful, for a new police station was built in 1862. On the market square there stands an old elm tree. Under its branches, it has been asserted, preached John Wesley, the great preacher and reformer, who died in London, on 2 March 1791.

The Inns of Stony Stratford.

Stanley Wegman in the "Story of Francis Cludde" describes how Francis had his first view of Stratford from Old Stratford Hill—and says "the town was a long straight street of low grey houses, with inns close together, 'like beads threaded on a rosary.'" Francis is supposed to have dined at the "Rose and Crown."

This statement will appear correct by a list of the inns that exist at the present time, and those of by gone days.

First and foremost in the existing inns must be taken the Cock and Bull hotels which were celebrated posting houses, and have the credit of being responsible for the oft repeated saying, "a Cock and Bull story." In other words, a gentle way of informing a person who may be telling you a tale, that he is a liar. Tradition says "that at these two inns, it was a regular custom for tales to be concocted of the great achievements, and hair-breadth escapes from the knights of the road, by

the travellers in the respective coaches, that called at these places. Each inn endeavoured to eclipse the other in its fabrication, thus the saying is supposed to have originated.

Amongst those of the past, which are now private or business houses, are, the Three Swans, which was a rival of the Cock in size. It now consists of the "Colony" and Mr. Elmes' shop and warehouses. It may be looked upon as one of the best built, and largest houses in the town. The gate way in the centre is still retained and the yard has an outlet against the "Ring," where the horses from this hostelry were exercised.

The Old Waggon Inn was the portion of the frontage of St. Paul's College, which bears the sundial, mentioned elsewhere.

The Old Waggon and Horses and the Gate Inns, stood near the site of the Retreat. These were below the Street level, which was a characteristic of the town of Stony Stratford.

The Rose and Crown, mentioned in the charities, is the house on the right hand side of the national schools, which was also below the street level, and was the inn in which Prince Rupert is supposed to have stayed and also where the unfortunate Princes were taken prisoners.

One of the upper rooms of this house was painted with the royal arms and other devices, which were retained until the occupancy of a late tenant, well known as "Freddie" Aveline, who cared nothing for antiquities.

The Barley Mow was originally the Angel, and as there was the Angel at the other end of the street, it was a jest with the soldiers who passed through, that Stony Stratford ought to be a good place, as it was guarded by an angel at each end."

The Lyon was probably the Fox and Hounds, as this is a modern name, though it is well known to be an old inn.

There were the Old Royal Oak, a near neighbour to the Royal Oak on the Horsefair Green; the Horse Shoe near the Barley Mow; the Windmill, opposite the Old Waggon, now Mr. Pollard's shop; St. Peter's Keys, opposite Church Passage, the yard beside the old inn is now known as Cross Keys Yard; and the sites of the following cannot be identified: Globe, Plough, Lyon, Old Boar, Peacock, Talbot, Bell, Old Barley Mow, New Barley Mow, and the Swan with two Necks.

Amongst the old inns still in existence are The Plough (there were two inns of this name), Angel, White Swan (adjoining Swan Yard), George (which is still considerably below the street level), White Horse, Coach and Horses, Rising Sun, King's Head, White Hart (now the club), Crown, and Royal Oak.

The modern ones are Red Lion, Foresters' Arms, Prince of Wales, Duke of Edinburg and The Case is Altered.

The Sundials of Stony Stratford.

There are two old sundials, one in the High Street, and the other at the south-west corner of Church Street. The latter one bears the inscription: W.M. Tempus eb Jgnis omnia perdun HA Fecit Ap. 17, 1739.

It may be explained that the word given as "eb" should be et, and that "perdun" should have the letter T at the end of it. These mistakes may probably have arisen in re-painting. "Time and fire all things destroy," is the meaning of the inscription, and the word "fecit" can be translated as "made." These explanations give a clear interpretation of the inscription. The High Street sundial upon the Orphanage, bears the inscription: "Tempus vincit diht. omn—Ano. 1773."

The last word should undoubtedly be "omnia," but the third word, evidently a contraction, puzzles the writer. The inscription can, however, be taken to mean "Time conquers all things," or something to that effect. Upon the front of a house on the west side of the Market Place, and adjoining the King's Head Inn, is a shield of arms Arnold impaling—a fess ermine between three cinquefoils, and the letters M.A. and the date, 1790.

Plagues and the Pest House at Stony Stratford.

Though Stony Stratford has been seriously affected by the terrible scourge, which is entered in the parish registers as "the plague" on three occasions, i.e., 1625, 1641, and 1647, it was fortunate enough to escape another visitation in 1665, when the "great plague" swept the country in all directions, with such deadly effect.

In 1625 there was a visitation of the plague, of which 113 persons, chiefly women and children, died between June and December. The deaths mostly occurred on the east side of the town, and the greatest number was in the month of October. Some families seem to have been almost exterminated; for instance Richard Martin lost his wife, servant, and six children, "who were all buried at once," in less than a fortnight, and he himself succumbed at the next visitation in 1641. Four of another family died in a week. Another man lost his father and four children; and another, his wife and four children and two apprentices.

In 1641 the plague again visited the town, resulting in 102 deaths; and again in 1647 when there were 43 deaths.

The Pest House, which stood at the end of Horn Lane (as we now know it), which suddenly collapsed about five years ago, is generally supposed to have been used as a hospital at the time of the plague, and thus attained its name. This does not appear to be the case by the entries in the parish records, which clearly show that it was only used to isolate cases of small-pox, when they occurred in the town.

Horn Lane was a thoroughfare, at that time, and led to the mill, but now terminates near the site of this old house of isolation.

Stony Stratford Charities.

There is a tradition, which can be satisfactorily traced for nearly 200 years, that some of the charities were lost through the dishonesty of the feoffees. They were said to have taken the deeds "from the old oak chest in Stratford church and burnt them," thus being able to convert

the properties to their own use. This is borne out by the following extract from Browne Willis' MSS., written in 1735.

"Three houses in this town (Stony Stratford), were given to Buckingham gaol for the benefit of the poor prisoners there; on disuse of which gaol the payment ceased, and they are now become private property. The George Inn and the two houses above it are said to have been two of the houses, the third house which is in the Bablack belonged to one Waters, and was sold to John Roberts by Waters. Mr. Michael Hipwell gave great charities, which have been sadly embezzled and are reported to have levied recoveries of the charities' estates and sunk, and converted them to their own use."

James Barnes' charity (1618). He left two houses for poor widows to dwell in. The Parliamentary return of 1786 says they were vested in the overseers, and in a plan of the town, made about this date, there are four cottages belonging to the parish opposite the present gas works. In the Blue Book of 1839, the charity commissioners state that "they cannot now be identified." The house now occupied by Mr. Worley, was then two houses owned by Samuel Hilliard, a baker, and there was a story current that these were the two left by James Barnes. Hilliard satisfied the commissioners that this was not the case by producing title deeds, which went back over a century.

In 1632, Sir Simon Bennett, a worthy benefactor to the West side of Stony Stratford, gave £20 a year to clothe ten poor men in blue jerkins, breeches, and stockings. They were to be honest labourers, past work. To have dwelt on the West side of Stony Stratford for seven years. No inmate of a house in which two families lived nor "hedg-breaker nor other defamed person" should receive the gift. The large blue jerkin bore upon the breast the letters S.B. He also left twenty nobles yearly to repair the highways for ever.

Symon Bennett, of Calverton, by his will in 1679, gave towards the raising of a common stock for relieving and setting on work, the poor people of the West side of Stony Stratford, the sum of £100; for a common stock in like manner for Calverton, £60; and for Beachampton, in like manner, £50. With these, and other monies, amounting to £300, 51 acres of land in the common fields of Bradwell were purchased; and at the inclosure of that parish allotments amounting to 46 acres 31 poles were made in lieu of the common lands. Of the rents of this property 10/21 parts are given to Stony Stratford; 6/21 parts to Calverton; and 5/21 parts to Beachampton. This charity was wrongfully used, before 1826, in repairing the highways, but is now expended on the poor and is known as the Bradwell charity.

John Whalley, of Cosgrove, Northamptonshire, by his will dated in 1670, bequeathed to the vicar of Hartwell, in the same county, for the time being, say the Charity Commissioners, the sum of £4 per annum, out of his estate at Hartwell; and the remainder of that estate he bequeathed to the incumbents of Cosgrove, Calverton, Passenham, and the churchwardens of Stony Stratford, for the time being; all of which persons he appointed his trustees for the letting his said estate at Hartwell, and for receiving the rents and profits thereof, for putting forth

yearly poor boys apprentice, born in Stony Stratford, of parents who have lived five years as housekeepers in the said town, and not to give with any boy above the sum of £10; and he directed that when any boy had honestly and truly served his apprenticeship, that his said trustees should give unto that boy who should so serve his time, the sum of £10 towards setting himself up in that trade he was bound. In 1824, the then trustees of the charity obtained the sanction of the Court of Chancery to an increase of the premiums from the sum allowed by the will, to £25 or a less sum. It appears from the proceedings had in the said court for that purpose, that in 1824 the charity estates consisted of a farm house and 150 acres of open field land, then let at the annual rent of £100. Also, of three cottages and a close of pasture land, let at yearly rents amounting to £9 4s. 6d., and of £700 three per cents., which had arisen from successive investments of surplus rents, and that after deducting all outgoings, there remained a clear annual income of £98 or thereabouts applicable to the purpose of this charity. The commissioners further inform us that the property of the charity consists of a farm house and a farm of 168 acres 3 roods and 13 poles, in the parish of Hartwell, let for £190 a year, from which a corn rent of £35 17s. 5d. is deducted (this land was allotted in exchange for the charity land and common rights when the parish of Hartwell was inclosed); a piece of land, containing 2 acres 39 poles, in the parish of Furtho; and for four cottages with gardens which were built in 1833 (the year the commissioners made their report), on the site of the old tenements; and that the whole of the stock in the funds, amounting to £733 15s. 7d. three per cents., was sold for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the inclosure. From 1684 to 1707, 58 boys were apprenticed by this charity. Twenty-two went to London, 33 into neighbouring places, and 9 into the town. The favourite trades were blacksmith, cordwainer, and frame-work knitter. Typical trades were also lace-buyer, pinmaker, cork cutter, currier, glover, silk weaver, and woolcomber. The boys who went to London also went as shipwrights, sail makers, stationers, victualers, fishmongers, poulters, wire drawers, needle makers, cuttlers, and one to a musician. In 1692, Richard, son of Nathaniel Shenn, was apprenticed to Thomas Robinson, of Stony Stratford, barber, chirurgeon, and periwig maker.

Michael Hipwell, of Stony Stratford, by his will, in 1610, directed that a public house or inn belonging to him called the Rose and Crown, should be let, together with certain closes of land for a term of 99 years; and after the expiration of that term, he bequeathed the said inn, together with all the stables, yards, barns, and commons thereunto belonging, to certain trustees, "that the rents and profits may be applied to the maintenance of a schoolmaster from time to time for ever, to keep a Free Grammar School in the barn behind the said inn, which barn he appointed should be applied as the school house, and was then lately built by him, and a chimney, a loft, and a parlour on the one end thereof for the schoolmaster from time to time to dwell in, and the yard adjoining to the barn for the use of the schoolmaster for the time being: and he appointed that the said trustees should nominate

the schoolmaster to hold the said free school from time to time as they should think good ; and it is provided, that such scholars of the town, or any of the next town adjoining, as should be minded to learn either grammar, or to write, or to cypher, should be taught in the school, and be taught their principles in religion, or else the said gift to be void ; and that the trustees should remove the said schoolmaster, and put in another, if they should think good cause, or that the schoolmaster for the time being should not duly and orderly behave himself, and teach the scholars in the said school, as should be thought meet by the said trustees." This school is now incorporated with the National School. The property comprised the two houses that stand on the London side of the present National Schools, and the site of the schools, together with land at the rear that extended back to Wolverton Lane, now known as Russel Street, and four leys of land on the Wolverton side of the lane. He also left five tenements on the East side of Stony Stratford, near the Queen's Cross, for the poor. These have vanished, but they were probably the predecessors of the four small houses adjoining the gas works. These were known as the "Free Houses." Tradition says that they were damaged by fire, and they were repaired by someone who took the rents the feoffees having no funds to pay him), and in time they became regarded as his property.

Thomas Oliver, of Stony Stratford, by a codicil annexed to his will, proved in 1657, left a rent-charge of £2 per annum to the poor of the town, issuing out of a messuage or cottage here. The house stood upon the site of the one occupied by Mr. Bridgeman, the printer, and the cottage referred to was at the rear. The cottage was burnt and the charity is no more.

On 21 April 1674, Mr. Faithful Boughey was buried. The Bougheys were a family of some importance, members of it were often churchwardens. This Faithful was among the number. In 1663, he executed a deed between himself and certain trustees by which he devised certain houses in or near the Market Place, which were to be inhabited by the poor on certain conditions, and the houses that were then standing on the churchyard of St. Giles were to be pulled down, and never again repaired, and further that the feoffees were at all times to use their utmost endeavours to recover to the churchyard, "all that land and soil" which had wrongfully been taken from it. These conditions were evidently never fulfilled. There is no trace of a charity in Mr. Boughey's name, and the houses now standing on the churchyard, were old houses at the commencement of this century, by a sketch of that date.

Edmund Arnold, of Doctors Commons, left a farm now yielding an annual rent of about £400, for and towards putting out poor children of this town, as apprentices, and to assist in putting them up in business after they have finished such apprenticeship ; also for the relief of the poor parishioners. The apprenticing accounts are from 1692 to 1750, during which time 66 children were apprenticed. Twenty-five in London, 33 in the neighbourhood, and 2 in the town. The girls usually went to service, or to frame-work knitters, and one went to be

apprenticed to a shepherd. Those who went to London gave most elaborate addresses, such as : " In y^e pish. of White Chappell, in y^e county of Middlesex, Winford Street, att y^e 2 green posts." And "At y^e Queen's Square Tavern in Devonshire Street, nigh Red Lion Square, in Holborn, in St. Andrew's pish., London." The amount spent in "treating" and tipping servants, "myself and horsehire," amounted to nearly four per cent. of the total money disbursed. For every apprentice bound there was a fee of five shillings to the overseer, "To my trouble in putting him forth."

Silvester Whitnell, in 1692, gave £50, and Elizabeth Collins gave £40, to be laid out together in the purchase of land, the rents whereof to be expended in the purchase of bread for the poor of the town. The property consists of 13 acres 2 roods 39 poles, lying in the hamlet of Deanshanger, parish of Passenham.

The property of the Bell-rope Charity consists of the money received for the piece of land now converted into the cemetery, on the Calverton road. There are no documents relating to this charity in the custody of the parish authorities; but local tradition states it to be the gift of an individual who had lost his way, but was rescued by hearing the clock of Stony Stratford church strike the time. He left this land to perpetuate his deliverance, and "to buy bell ropes till the end of the world," and to have the bell tolled every morning at five and each night at eight o'clock.

John Oliver, of Stony Stratford, left by will in 1856, £500 in consols, the interest of which was to be divided amongst ten poor men and ten poor women.

The two old houses, now standing next the Barley Mow Inn, were charity houses left by some unknown donor, and were occupied as such in 1823, and later.

The particulars of the Bridge, and Street charities are as follows :—

John White gave, in 1674, to the poor of Stony Stratford, a house and lands, of which the then yearly value was £57, for discharging a fifteenth or any charitable purpose.

John Marshe left by will, for repairing highways or such other purposes as the trustees should direct, houses and lands, of which the clear annual produce was then £29 16s. The property of these two charities, together with the inn called the Cock, and a close of land belonging thereto, four closes of land at Wolverton, a public house called the Rising Sun, the town close and other premises, which had been bequeathed for the use of this town by Mr. Serjeant Pigott, and other donors whose names are unknown, was, prior to the year 1801, vested in trustees in trust for the purpose of maintaining and keeping in repair, the bridge over the Ouse, and causeways, and the highways on both sides of the town of Stony Stratford, and also for the discharge of a fifteenth or any other charge to be taxed or imposed upon the said town. By the Act passed in 1801, for paving, and otherwise improving the streets of this town, and for selling the charity estates above mentioned, reciting that the rents thereof were insufficient to keep the streets, bridges, and causeways in proper repair, authority is given to

the trustees to dispose of the charity premises by public auction; and it enacted, that all the proceeds of the sales, after paying the expenses of the Act, and the expenses of selling the aforesaid charity estates, and discharging a certain debt, should be divided into five equal shares, to be disposed of as follows: that is to say, two fifth parts in paving, cleaning, etc., the streets and other public ways, and in repairing the bridge and causeway; and the remainder, and the remaining three-fifths should be paid into the bank into the name of the accountant-general of the court of chancery, and should, under the direction of the said court, be laid out in the purchase of navy, victualling, or exchequer bills, and the interest from time to time accumulated, until the whole amount of the accumulations should equal the whole amount of monies arising from the sales, at which period the whole of the accumulations should be laid out in the purchase of an estate, to be settled to such uses as the said charity estates thereby directed to be sold were then subject to, or as the rents and profits thereof would have been applied, in case the said Act had not been made. The proceeds arising from the sales of the above estates, were appropriated as directed by the Act; and when the accumulations had attained to the amount therein specified, they were applied in the purchase of a farm house and lands at Loughton, containing 144 acres, or thereabouts.

In 1834, under an Act of Parliament, before mentioned, which received the royal assent on 25 July, the old bridge was taken down and replaced by the present bridge and causeway; and under the provisions of that Act, the trustees of the bridge and street charities were released from the liability to repair the bridge and causeway, by the payment of the sum of £725 to the counties of Bucks and Northampton.

The accounts of the above two charities are from 1693 to 1754. The trustees seem to have thought that a good deal of beer was necessary to keep the streets in repair, for they could neither pay nor receive money without meeting at an inn to wet the bargain. The favourite places appear to have been the Three Swans, and Widow Sharpes. They also bought carts and wheel-barrowes "for the use of the street," and endless loads of gravel, stones, and "pibols." The "pichin" the street was done by contract at twopence per yard. A carpenter for "two days' work and beare," received 2s. 10d.

The charities in 1735 are recorded as follows:

- 1 Sir Simon Bennett; clothing and to repair the highways.
- 2 Cock Inn given in 1519, by Sergeant Thomas Pigott of Whaddon, to repair the bridge.
- 3 A Farm at Calverton rented by one Boroden.
- 4 Cover's Close (Coffreys Close? see page 379), lying near Stony Stratford and rented by Mr. Jenkinson.
- 5 Closes at Hartwell left by Mr. Whalley.
- 6 Land in Bradwell.
- 7 Land on the backsides (i.e., Russell Street) rented by Cole and Wise, innkeepers, at the Three Swanns and the George.
- 8 Arnold's gift.
- 9 The "Sun" alehouse at the towns end for the bridge.

- 10 The "Rose and Crown" Inn and four-leys belonging to it.
 - 11 Mr. Hartley's close, rented by him of the town.
 - 12 Whitnell and Collins' charity for bread.
 - 13 The house called "Matthew's house" rented by Mr. Gwiney.
 - 14 An estate in Cosgrove called "Orchards."
 - 15 A gift by Thomas Oliver and Elizabeth Penn.
 - 16 Four little houses in Stony Stratford and a common of grass at the Bridge. These houses have been burnt and rebuilt.
 - 17 A house against the Swann rented by Daniel Bradford.
- The total value of these charities was £286/6/4.

Stony Stratford Bridge and Causeway.

The old bridge across the Ouse, which had been partially destroyed in the Civil War of the 17th century, and had become very delapidated, was rebuilt in 1835; the first stone having been laid by the Rev. L. Loraine Smith, of Passenham. A bottle was inserted in the stone, in which were deposited the coins of the realm, in gold, silver, and copper, a copy of the *Times* and a Northampton newspaper, and a piece of vellum bearing the following inscription, written by Mr. J. Durham, junr.: "This bridge was erected under the authority of an Act of Parliament passed in the fourth year of William the Fourth, Anno Domini 1834, the first stone whereof was laid under the superintendence of John Christopher Mansell, Esq., and other justices of the Peace for the counties of Buckingham and Northampton, on Saturday the 25th July, 1835." This handsome structure was built upon an enlarged plan, and consists of three spacious arches of stone, with a long raised causeway upon arches, for the purpose of carrying off floods, which were formerly of no uncommon occurrence here, and sometimes attended with disastrous consequences.

The "last straw" to the old bridge was the passing over it, of a heavy train of waggons from London to Birmingham, which was conveying plant for making plate glass. The bridge broke under the last waggon, which fell down between the beams of the bridge, and it took the utmost strength of 40 horses to extricate it, and drag it up the hill into Old Stratford.

On the 8th of November, 1823, when the Ouse was very much flooded, several persons were rescued here from a watery grave by the praiseworthy exertions of a few individuals, who, in the act, hazarded their own lives. The stage coach called the Crown Prince, in making way for another coach to pass it on the old bridge, was driven by the force of the stream into a hollow, where it remained in the most imminent danger to the lives of passengers, before they could be extricated. The coach was overturned, one of the horses was drowned, and it was with difficulty that the others were saved from a similar fate. The next morning the coach, with its load of luggage, was got out of the water, and the travellers pursued their journey.

During another flood, a waggoner, who brought stockings from Kendal to London, was drowned, but the horses freed themselves and

swam ashore. It was rather a pathetic end; he was a young man, and had said this would be "his last journey," as he was giving up driving, and was going to be married and settle at Kendal.

Upon the removal of the old bridge nothing was found to mark the time when it was constructed; but in digging the foundation for the piers of the present bridge, one human skull was found, as well as some early coins, daggers, spurs, etc., and a large stag's antlers, and five horses' heads. These remains would seem to point to this spot as the scene of a conflict in times gone by.

Stepping stones were in use from the Barley Mow Inn to the bridge for pedestrians in flood time, until the middle of the 18th century.

The Petty Sessional Division of Stony Stratford.

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the county, it was ordered that a new division within which special sessions shall henceforward be holden, to be called "The Stony Stratford Division," shall be constituted; to consist of the parishes or places called Beachampton, Bradwell Abbey, Calverton, Castlethorpe, Loughton, Shenley, Stony Stratford, and Wolverton. This order took effect on 1 November 1858, and the sessions were held at the Cock Hotel until the present police station was erected.

Stony Stratford Cemeteries.

In 1856 a cemetery was formed at the expense of the parishioners, which consists of three roods and thirty perches of land, formerly the property of the Bell-rope charity. It is situated a short distance from the town, in Calverton End. The entrance is through a lych-gate, and there are two neat Gothic chapels. The cemetery was consecrated on 11 April 1857. The cost of the ground, walling, laying out, etc., was £1,324 10s.

In 1871, a cemetery was made upon the top of Galley Hill for the accommodation of the parishioners of Wolverton end. It is situated in Wolverton parish, about half a mile from the church of St. Mary, and is approached by a lych-gate.

The Parsonage House, Stony Stratford.

The old Parsonage House, in High Street, a plain and ancient building, being inconvenient and unbecoming the requirements of the Rev. W. T. Sankey, it was therefore found necessary to erect the present parsonage, a handsome and most commodious residence in the Domestic Gothic style, well surrounded by pleasure grounds, &c., in 1861. On the 5th and 6th of April, 1861, a bazaar, for the sale of ladies' work took place in the school-room, in aid of the funds for building this house. The room was fitted up and arranged with three stalls—one being held by the Duchess of Grafton, the Countess Euston, and other ladies; another by Mrs. Sankey, wife of the Rev. W. T. Sankey, the Hon. Mrs. Barrington, and other ladies; and the third by the ladies

of Stony Stratford. The bazaar was numerously attended by the inhabitants of the town, and the nobility, clergy, and gentry of the neighbourhood, and about £286 was realised by it.

Stony Stratford XVIIth Century Tokens.

The number of XVIIth century tradesmen's tokens in Stony Stratford was very large for the size of the place. The reason may be assigned to the fact that this township, being on the main road from London to North Wales, it was found a very lucrative business by those who were in a position to issue these illegal, though useful, little coins. There would, of "necessitie," be a great many of these halfpence and farthings given out to the waggoners who would never return to change them at their respective issuers and thus their loss would be the maker's gain, their intrinsic value being a mere fraction of their face value.

In Stony Stratford, tokens were issued by fourteen different tradesmen; and it is interesting to note the peculiarities in the method of spelling the name of the place, which occurs in no less than five different ways. Upon six of the tokens there is no division whatever between the two words. The following is a correct description of the obverse and reverse of the coinage of Stony Stratford, taken from the coins themselves:

- 1 *Ob.* FRANCIS · ANDERTON—The grocers' arms.
R. IN · STONIE · STRTFORD—F. A.
- 2 *Ob.* ★ ROBERT ♦ ANDERTON—Three cloves.
R. ★ OF · STONI ♦ STRATFORD—R ♦ M ♦ A ♦
- 3 *Ob.* ★ IGHN · BOTRILL · IN—Three goats' heads. The cordwainers' arms.
R. ★ STONISTRATFORD—I. A. B.
- 4 *Ob.* ★ HVGH ♦ BLATSO ♦ IN—The drapers' arms.
R. ★ STONY ♦ STRATFORD—H ♦ M ♦ B ♦
- 5 *Ob.* ★ THOMAS · BVRGIS—The bakers' arms.
R. STONYSTRATFORD—T. A. B. 1657.
- 6 *Ob.* ★ CHRISTOPH · CLIFTON—A pot of lilies (*See illustration*).
R. ★ IN · STONEYSTRAFORD—C. I. C.
- 7 *Ob.* MATHEW · FINALL :—A phoenix.
R. IN · STONY · STRATFORD—MF ★ F ★
- 8 *Ob.* ★ THOMAS · FORFEIT · IN · STONY—A griffin.
R. ★ STRATFORD · HIS · HALFE · PENY—T. A. F.
- 9 *Ob.* ★ HENREY ★ HONNOR ★ ★ ★ ★ 1664 ★ ★ ★ ★
R. ★ IN · STONEY · STRATFORD—HIS HALF PENY ★
- 10 *Ob.* WILLIAM · MARSHALL · OF —A lion rampant.
R. ★ STONIE · STRATFORD—W. M ★ M ★
- 11 *Ob.* ★ FRANCIS · PENN · OF—The mercers' arms.
R. ★ STONISTRATFORD—F ★ P

- 12 Ob. ★ IOHN · PENN ★ AT ♦ 1669—HIS HALF PENY.
 B. ★ STONYSTRATFORD ★ ♦ ♦ ♦—I. M. P.
- 13 Ob. ★ WILLIAM · SMITH · 1668—HIS HALF PENY.
 B. ★ OF · STONYSTRATFORD—W ★ E ★ S ★
- 14 Ob. ★ RICHARD · VEASEY · IN—A lion rampant.
 B. ★ STONIE STRATFORD—R. E. V.

The information as to the trades carried on by the issuers of tokens is very varied, and in many cases we have no more to guide us than the trade signs on the tokens. These must not be taken, in all cases, to mean inn-holdings, although, of course, many of them do refer to such trade, but the majority of important trades at that time traded under a sign, and in many instances the sign was formed from the arms of the trade guild.

In 1674, a deed was drawn out between Faithful Boughey, churchwarden, and certain feoffees. Among the names are the following issuers of tokens with their trades appended: John Penn, tanner; Robert Anderton, mercer; and Hugh Bletsoe, draper.

The entries in the parish registers, and levy books in reference to the moniers of Stony Stratford, and their families, are numerous, and are contained in the following paragraphs:

Francis Anderton, who issued the token, first described, was evidently a bachelor by the reverse of the farthing he issued, only bearing two initials; if the issuer was married, that of his wife's Christian name was always included. There is no mention of him in the parish records, testifying that his stay in the town was of short duration. His issue, too, was evidently very small, and is the scarcest of the series.

Robert Anderton, who was probably brother to the above Francis, was also a grocer. He was levied on the West side of the town, and signed the levy book several times. The same name occurs as churchwarden for the East side in 1683.

Robert son of Robert Anderton, baptised January 1, 1651; married Eliz. Ebbs, April 20, 1675.

Arthur son of Robert Anderton, baptised October 15, 1653.

Edmund son of Robert Anderton, born August 1, and baptised September 1, 1655,

Mary daughter of Robert Anderton born Aug. 18, and bap. September 12, 1657.

Mary wife of Robert Anderton buried March 25, 1675.

John Botrill was either a cordwainer, shoemaker, or inn-keeper, by the device on his token, which are the arms of the guilds of the two former. The public house sign of the Three Goats' Heads, a "house of call" for shoemakers, took its origin from these arms. He signed the levy book, on the West side, as churchwarden in 1678.

Thomas son of John Botrill, born February 1, baptised March 9, 1655; buried April 18, 1657.

Ann daughter of John Botrill, born August 16, baptised September 16, 1660; buried November 14, 1680.

Sara daughter of John Botrill, baptised March 3, 1662.

Eliz. daughter of John Botrill, baptised December 29, 1665.

"A child" of John Bottrill, buried January 14 1666.

Katherine daughter of John Bottrill baptised November 21, 1671; buried July 1673.

Thomas Burgis, known as the Quaker, a baker, likewise resided on the West side of the town.

Thomas Burgis and Mary Bullock married May 20, 1621. (East side).

Robert son of Thos. Burgis, bap. Feb. 4, 1626.

Mary dau. of Thos. Burgis, bap. October 2, 1631; buried November 17, 1644.

Edward son of Thos. Burgis, bap. Feb. 2, 1634.

Ed. son of Thos. Burgis, buried July 6, 1634.

Thomas Burgis, the Quaker, buried April 29, 1696.

Hugh Blatso, or Bletsoe, was another West side tradesman, who signed the levy book. Mary his wife, whose initial is upon his token died in September 1654, which fixes the date of the token to be between 1651, and the year of her death. In February 1655, he married Elinor Clark, a young lady from Wicken.

Mary daughter of Hugh Bletsoe baptised September 20, 1651.

Thomas son of Hugh Bletsoe baptised June 10, buried June 11, 1653.

Phillis daughter of Hugh Bletsoe born September 1, baptised September 3, 1654.

Mary wife of Hugh Bletsoe buried September 21 1654.

Published banns of Hugh Bletsoe and Elinor Clark, of Wicken, February 11, 18, 25, and was married February 26, 1655.

Thomas son of Hugh Bletsoe born June 23, baptised July 21, 1656.

John son of Hugh Bletsoe born March 31, baptised April 5 1659.

Hugh son of Hugh Bletsoe baptised April 18 1663; buried September 11, 1663.

Samuel son of Hugh Bletsoe baptised August 6, 1664; buried August 11, 1664.

Elin wife of Hugh Bletsoe buried October 6, 1664.



Christopher Clifton was a pewterer, by the device upon his token, which is a pot of lilies, as illustrated above. He was a churchwarden on the West side in 1653, and he signed the West side levy book.

Richard son of Christopher Clifton baptised December 28, 1644.

Emberee daughter of Christopher Clifton baptised November 15, 1646.

Christopher son of Christopher Clifton baptised September 8, 1649.

Christopher son of Christopher Clifton, junior, baptised August 7, 1672; buried August 19, 1672.

Mary dau. of Christopher Clifton, junr., bap. Jan. 24, 1674; buried Sept. 1677.

Sarah, dau. of Christopher Clifton, junr., bap Sep. 14, 1678; buried Sep. 1696.

Christopher son of Christopher Clifton, jun., baptised Sep. 14, 1680.

Christopher son of Christopher Clifton, jun., bap. October 3, 1681, buried August 27, 1682.

James son of Christopher Clifton, jun. baptised January 20, 1686.

Katherine daughter of Christopher Clifton, jun., baptised September 12, 1689.

Christopher son of Christopher Clifton, jun., bap. May 16, 1693.

Mary daughter of Christopher Clifton, jun., buried September 1696

"Old Christopher Clifton's wife" buried Dec. 25, 1678.
Christopher Clifton buried April 3, 1686.

Matthew Finall's token denotes that he was a painter and painter-stainer, by the adoption of the phoenix on the obverse.

Jan wife of Matthew Finall, buried 1646.
Mathias son of Matthew Finall, bap. May 13, 1652.
Matthew Finall buried May 21, 1669.

Thomas Forfeit's name frequently occurs in the West side levy books.

Published Thomas Forfeit of Bradwell, and Ann Gray of this town. June 18, 25, and July 2, and were married July 2, 1654.

Ann daughter of Thomas Forfeit, born March 30, bap. April 23, 1655; bur. June 2, 1658.

Thomas son of Thomas Forfeit born May 28, bap. June 20, 1657; bur. July 31, 1665.

Jane daughter of Thomas Forfeit born April 16, baptised May 16, 1659.

Francis son of Thomas Forfeit bap. September 9, 1661.

Thomas Forfeit buried February 9, 1684.

Henry Honnor's halfpenny does not give any clue to his profession or calling. He was an overseer for the West side, in 1672, and his name is of frequent occurrence in the levies.

Henry son of Henry Honnor, bap. May 16, 1665,

Francis son of Henry Honnor, bap. June 25, 1668.

Mary dau. of Henry Honnor, bap. April 2, 1670; buried July 10, 1673.

Charles son of Henry Honnor, buried February 12 1671.

Sarah daughter of Henry Honnor, buried January 9, 1672.

Sarah daughter of Henry Honnor, baptised November 20, 1678.

Eliz. daughter of Henry Honnor, baptised May 5, 1676.

Wm. son of Henry Honnor, buried June 11, 1677.

Ann daughter of Henry Honnor, baptised December 31, 1678.

Edward son of Henry Honnor, baptised April 2, 1679; buried March 24, 1688.

John son of Henry Honnor, baptised August 4, 1680; buried October 1, 1680.

Henry son of Henry Honnor, baptised April 30, 1684.

Henry son of Henry Honnor, baptised April 23, 1685.

William son of Henry Honnor, baptised September 1, 1687.

Mary daughter of Henry Honnor, baptised May 10, 1688.

Robert son of Henry Honnor, baptised March 14, 1691.

Mary Honnor buried August 12, 1687.

Henry Honnor buried October 19, 1692.

Sarah Honnor widow buried November 1692,

"A maide at Henry Honnors" buried July 24, 1673.

There were two William Marshalls at this time. The issuer of the token was buried 16 March 1672. There are no entries relative to his wife or children, if he had any, in the registers. By his token exhibiting the lion it is most probable that he was a publican and occupied the inn known as the "Lyon," immediately before, or after Richard Veasey, at any rate between 1651 and 1671.

Francis Penn, the mercer, and John Penn, the tanner, were probably brothers. They were relatives of the Penns, of Chalfont St. Giles, who were the founders of Pennsylvania. There appear to have been, at least, two of the name of John, in Stony Stratford, during the period that tokens were issued, and thus it is impossible to assign to which the

token belonged. The family stayed in the town for several generations.

Eliz. dau. of John Penn, bap. Nov. 27, 1625.

John Penn, buried April 22, 1627.

John Penn, buried March 24, 1629.

Gyles son of John Penn, buried August 17, 1644.

John son of John Penn, baptised May 9, 1647; buried November 3, 1652.

Ester daughter of John Penn, baptised April 15, 1648.

Mary daughter of John Penn, baptised January 6, 1649.

Eliz daughter of John Penn, baptised October 6, 1651.

Elinor wife of John Penn, buried October 9, 1656.

Edward son of John Penn, buried February 28, 1657.

Jo son of John Penn, baptised March 12, 1660.

Silvester son of John Penn, buried May 5, 1662.

John son of John Penn, baptised May 5, 1662.

Elin daughter of John Penn, baptised October 17, 1663; buried August 29, 1668.

Sara daughter of John Penn, baptised August 30, 1666.

John son of John Penn, baptised September 10, 1667; buried July 16, 1668.

Published Francis Penn of this parish and Grace Hurslis of Bradwell October 30, November 6 and 13, and were married November 24, 1657.

Francis son of Francis Penn, born Dec. 18, bap. Jan. 18, 1659; bur. June 21, 1676.

Mary dau. of Francis Penn, born Nov. 22, bap. Dec. 21, 1660; bur. Aug. 9, 1666.

Grace daughter of Francis Penn, bap. May 5, 1663.

Grace wife of Francis Penn, bur. May 23, 1667.

William Smith only issued a halfpenny token, and in this case would use the farthing tokens of the other issuers of the town for smaller change. It is not known what trade he followed.

John son of William Smith, born May 3, bap. May 21, 1654.

Thomas son of William Smith, bur. Feb. 9, 1655.

Jane daughter of William Smith, born Jan. 13, bap. Feb. 7, 1656.

Jane daughter of William Smith, bap. July 8, 1670.

William Smith and Embree Ventrus, mar. Feb. 7, 1671.

Mary daughter of William Smith, buried Sep. 13, 1671.

Richard Veasey's burial is recorded 1 August 1680. He exhibits a lion on his farthing token.

Wolverton End, Stony Stratford.

The south western portion of Stony Stratford is known as Wolverton St. Mary's. This portion of the town consists principally of private houses, some of which are very good residences.

Sixty years ago, there was not a single house on the Wolverton Road beyond the Independent chapel. On the site of St. Mary's schools stood some old cottages, and these, with a row on the London Road, where St. Mary's Parish Room now stands, were the only houses except the Plough Inn, in Wolverton End. The site of St. Mary's church was occupied by a cottage, and where the vicarage now stands, there were a farm yard and a pond.

A public foot path, joining the old pack-horse road, formerly led from where St. Mary's schools stand, to Old Bradwell.

To meet the demands of the increasing population in 1864, an additional church was erected, which is known as

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE *St. Mary the Virgin, Wolverton End.*

This church is in the Early English style, and built of local stone from designs furnished by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., and comprises nave of five bays with apsidal chancel, north and south aisles, with south porch, and a bell turret containing two small bells.

In 1886, the church was decorated internally from designs furnished by the local ecclesiastical architect, Mr. E. Swinfen Harris.

The approximate value of the living is £197. and the real net value £142 per annum.

The registers date for baptisms, from 1864, for marriages, 1867; and for deaths, 1871, when the cemetery for this church was consecrated.

Ministers of St. Mary's, Wolverton End.

H. HOCKIN, the first minister was instituted in 1864. He was succeeded by H. M. LOWER, who was followed by

D. MCKENRIE.

A. W. MOUNTAIN was instituted in 1872. He died; and

GEORGE PHILIP TREVELYAN, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, was instituted in 1885. At his resignation,

O. P. HENLEY, was instituted in 1897.

Calverton End, Stony Stratford.

In Calverton End there were four houses opposite to where Mr. Hayes now lives, and a good house, occupied by a lace-buyer, formerly stood where now stands "The Lindens." There was a row of brick cottages, two of which remain, and Mr. Downing's forge. The only houses on the upper side of the Green were those now occupied by Miss Richardson and Mr. E. Downing; the rest comprised fields, in which stood what were called "the nine houses," old cottages off the road.

The Royal Oak Inn is an old house, and formerly had as neighbour another inn similarly named.

On the lower side of the Green there is only one really old house left; now divided and occupied by Messrs. Holtom and Holyoake. It contains a most curious and large ingle nook, evidently very old.



CALVERTON.

HE parish of Calverton once included the western portion of Stony Stratford, which was separated from it by an Act of Parliament. The parish is divided into four parts, called Calverton End (now a suburb of Stony Stratford). Upper Weald, Lower Weald, and Middle Weald. At Middle Weald are several neat cottages for labourers, in the Gothic style, erected in groups of three each, with stone-cased doorways and windows. The building of these was commenced by the late Hon. C. G. Perceval. The other cottages, as well as the farm houses in the parish, are mostly mean in appearance and covered with thatch, excepting those at Calverton End.

From Upper Weald the views of the surrounding country are varied and beautiful.

The parish of Calverton, and the western portion of Stony Stratford were inclosed in 1782. By a local government order of 25 March 1883, the detached part of this parish, designated Stratford Bridge Meadows, was added to Stratford St. Giles.

The parish is bounded on the north-east, by Stony Stratford; on the south-east, by Shenley Church End; on the south-west, by Whaddon and Beachampton; and on the north-west, by the river Ouse and Northamptonshire.

The village is scattered, and is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west from Stony Stratford, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west from Newport Pagnell, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west from Fenny Stratford.

Calverton is in the petty sessional division of Stony Stratford, union of Potterspury, rural deanery and arch deaconry of Buckingham, and the diocese of Oxford.

The turnpike road to Stony Stratford is identical with the old Roman way known as the Watling Street, and the rectory occupies the site of a Roman camp. In making the plantations around the rectory, numerous fragments of Roman pottery, with arrow heads, and a spear, were discovered.

Gib Lane, which runs parallel with the wall of the old manor house, was formerly a portion of an ancient pack-horse road from Bedford to Aylesbury, but now only constitutes a path to Stratford. This lane takes its name from the fact that the gibbet stood here, and upon which Adam Barnes, the Stony Stratford butcher, hung until he dropped to pieces. The site of the gibbet is defined by a rude carving of one, and the date 1693 on a large stone in the gable of the barn that is built into the wall surrounding the old manorial warren. During recent years another gibbet has been engraved on the same stone.

At Middle Weald there is a chalybeate spring called the "Bloody Balk," which is now filled in, and all but forgotten.

The limestone in the parish abounds with numerous fossil shells.

The population is 550; the area 1,980 acres.

~ *Manorial History of Calverton.*

Calverton was surveyed after the Norman conquest, in the ancient Hundred of Sigelai, as the land of Hugh de Bolebec, and by him holden as the manor, taxed as ten hides. There were ten carucates; in the demesne three hides, and there were three carucates; and eighteen villeins, with eight bordars, had seven carucates; and a ninth might have been cultivated. There were nine servants, and one mill of thirteen shillings and fourpence rent; pasture for five carucates; altogether worth, and valued £10; and in the time of king Edward at £12. This manor, Bise, a thane of king Edward, had holden; and a man of queen Edith held two hides for his manor, which he could sell.

After Hugh de Bolebec, the grantee of the Conqueror, Hugh, his son, succeeded to the possessions of this manor in 1148, whose successor was Walter, in 1186; and Isabella, the heiress of the house of Bolebec, in 1244, becoming the wife of Robert de Vere earl of Oxford, Hugh de Vere, his issue by her, and the fourth earl of Oxford, is said to have been possessed of Calverton between 1244 and 1262; as was likewise their son Robert, fifth earl of Oxford, between that year and 1295; and this estate descended, before 1331, to Robert, sixth earl; then to John, seventh earl of Oxford, and was settled on Maud, countess of Oxford, his widow in dower; at whose death in 1366 it passed, in or before 1370, to Thomas, eighth earl of Oxford; and in 1393, was possessed by Robert, ninth earl of Oxford and duke of Ireland, and was the dower of Philippa duchess of Ireland in 1396. In 1400, this manor descended to Aubrey, or Alberic de Vere, tenth earl of Oxford; and at his attainder, in 1461, came to the crown. In 1481, it was in the hands of the king's son, Richard Plantagenet, duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III.; and upon his death, in Bosworth Field, this manor was, by Edward IV., restored to Robert, eleventh earl of Oxford; and from whom it descended to John, the twelfth earl; but on his attainder, again reverted to the crown. John, thirteenth earl of Oxford, being restored to his honours and estates by Henry VII., held the same until his decease, in 1512; when he was succeeded, inter alia, in the possession of this manor, by John, fourteenth earl of Oxford; at whose death, in 1526, Dorothy, his sister and co-heir, carried this estate in marriage to John Neville Lord Latimer; whose eldest daughter and co-heir brought the same (with Stony Stratford manor) by her marriage to Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, who died in 1583. Henry, ninth earl of Northumberland, in 1616, sold the estate to Sir Thomas Benet, knight, citizen of London, who held his first court-leet and court-baron here in 1617; and this estate descended by his co-heiresses, Grace and Frances, daughters of Simon Benet, to John Benet of Abington, in Cambridgeshire, and

James Cecil, earl of Salisbury, to whom they were respectively married ; and on the failure of the issue of the elder sister, became vested in the earl of Salisbury. This Mrs. Grace Benet, widow of Simon Benet, and mother of Mrs. Benet of Abington and countess of Salisbury, is stated to have been most cruelly murdered in the mansion at Calverton ; for to use the words of Cole, " being a miserable, covetous, and wretched person, she lived by herself in the old house at Calverton ; and, being supposed to have great store of money by her, tempted Adam Barnes, a butcher of Stony Stratford, to get artfully into the house ; and there being nobody to assist her, or call for help, barbarously murdered her, in 1693 ; for which he was afterwards executed."

The family of Benet were considerable benefactors to this parish ; and amongst them, was the unfortunate lady above mentioned ; by whose husband, Simon Benet, the porch of the manor house was erected during the Commonwealth, the initials of his name, " S. B. 1659," being over the door. The manor house was built by the Pigotts. It is an interesting old structure of stone, with projecting gables, and mullioned windows, and is now occupied as a farm house. The place is still surrounded by a high stone wall enclosing upwards of four acres, which is known as the Warren.

The estates descended from James, earl of Salisbury, to the Hon. James Brownlow William Gascoigne Cecil, marquess of Salisbury ; and was transferred by purchase, to Robert John, lord Carington, the earl Egmont, and Mr. Oliver of Stony Stratford. The present principal landed proprietors are lord Carington and the earl Egmont.

Ecclesiastical History of Calverton.

The rectory, which was always appendant to the manor, whose lords were its patrons, was, according to a Terrier signed by John Mansell, rector, in 1639, described to have consisted of " the parsonage house, three barns and a stable, two closes near the house, half an acre in the Mill Meadow, an acre in Bridge Meadow, half an acre more there, one head ley on Calvercroft, three leys at Weedeford ; in the Middle Field, nine acres and ten lands ; in Blaken Field, eleven acres twenty-three lands and two roods ; in Street Field, seven acres twenty-three lands one rood and a foreshooter."

During the incumbency of the Rev. John Knight, who died rector in 1661, the chapelry of St. Giles, of Stony Stratford, which with all the west side of that township, had been previously included in the bounds and perambulations, was dissevered from Calverton.

The value of the rectory, in 1538, was returned at £26 2s. 11d. ; and subsequently, the glebe land was estimated at £20 per annum. The great tithes let for £120 per annum, during several years, seldom exceeded £10 per annum more ; so that the whole, with the small tithes, amounted only to about £160 per annum. The present value is £370 per annum.

Under an inclosure Act, in 1782, an allotment of about 380 acres was made to the rector for his glebe,

Rectors of Calverton.

RICHARD occurs in 1182.

WILLIAM DE LVSURES, presented in 1233, by Isabella Countess of Oxford

HILIAS DE BELLO-CAMPO.

WILLIAM DE PIREY, Canon of York, died 1299.

JOHN DE FALSHAW, presented 10 May 1299, by Sir Hugh Vere, knight.

JOHN GORE, presented December 1348, by John Vere, Earl of Oxford. He exchanged for Penlow, in Essex, with

HENRY DE UNDELL, 2 August 1351, who exchanged with

SIMON DE BRANTINGHAM, 8 December 1354. He died and was succeeded by

ROGER DE CHESTERFIELD, presented 18 February 1361, by Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford. He died in 1377.

WILLIAM BROWN, presented 25 August 1377, by Sir Aubrey de Vere, knight.

ROBERT BEAUFANS, admitted 14 June 1425, on the presentation of the Duke of Exeter. He exchanged for Alcester, in Warwickshire, with

JOHN TIMMS, 11 November 1435.

JOHN WALTER, resigned 1461.

WILLIAM BEAKELEY, presented 20 January 1461, by Sir Aubrey de Vere, knight.

GILBERT REVE died 1465,

JOHN SOMERVILLE, presented 22 November 1465, by Sir Thomas Cobham, knight. He died; and

EDMUND CHADERTON was instituted 14 August 1483, on the king's presentation. He resigned it in the next year; to

EDMUND CHOLTERTON instituted 27 February 1484, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Bryan, knight. He died; and

ALEYNE BETUNE, LL.D., was instituted 25 November 1514, on the presentation of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. He died; and

JOHN LANCASTER was instituted 7 December 1520, on the presentation of Anne de Vere, Countess of Oxford. He died; and

RICHARD PRANK was instituted 21 April 1541. He had been previously rector of Aston Sandford. He died.

JOHN REDMAYNE was instituted 8 April 1548. He was the first master of Trinity College, Cambridge. He was succeeded by

WILLIAM BINNESLEY, LL.D., instituted 20 January 1549. At his resignation, he was succeeded by

JOHN MILNER, instituted 20 December 1558, on the presentation of Giles Isham and Marmaduke Cleaver.

ANTHONY RUSH, M.A., instituted 21 June 1566, on the presentation of Sir Robert Wingfield, knight.

MATTHEW PIGOTT instituted 15 June 1577, on the presentation of Thomas Pigott. He was buried at Beachampton, of which church he was also rector; and was succeeded by

HENRY HOUSE, M.A., instituted 22 November 1598, on the presentation of Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland. He died and his successor was

FRANCIS DALTON, S.T.P., instituted 6 November 1600, on the presentation of Sir Charles Percy, knight. He resigned.

HUMPHREY ALLWORTH, B.D., was instituted 16 April 1604, on the presentation of Jane Medcalf. He resigned; and

JOHN MANSELL, was instituted 7 August 1609, on the presentation of Samuel Mansell. He was buried here 19 October 1640.

JOHN KNIGHT presented by the king, in the minority of Simon Benet, 4 December 1640. He was buried here 11 August 1661; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM CARPENTER or CARPENDER, M.A., instituted 11 September 1661, on the presentation of Simon Benet. He died and was buried here.

JOHN TAYLOUR, M.A., instituted 18 February 1711, on the presentation of John Benet. He was buried here.

GEORGE COPPIN, M.A., instituted 1 November 1727, on the presentation of James Earl of Salisbury. He was succeeded by

EDWARD HAMMOND, M.A., instituted 27 May 1735 and inducted 30 May, on the presentation of James, Earl of Salisbury. He was succeeded by JONATHAN BRIGGS, M.A., instituted 1763. He was succeeded by JOHN HEY, D.D., presented 10 November 1780, by the Right Hon. James, Earl of Salisbury. He also held the rectory of Passenham by dispensation dated in October 1780; and on his cession, was succeeded by GEORGE BUTLER, D.D., inducted 8 August 1814, on the presentation of the Right Hon. Charles George Lord Arden. He resigned the rectory in 1821; and was succeeded by THE HON. CHARLES GEORGE PERCEVAL, M.A., instituted 2 January 1821 on the presentation of his father, the late Lord Arden. He married, at Shenley, in 1829, Mary, daughter of the Rev. Primatt Knapp, rector of Shenley, who died in 1832 leaving two children; Richard Perceval, who died in 1833, an infant; and a daughter, Mary, surviving. He was followed by WILLIAM PITT TREVELYAN, at whose resignation, GEORGE EDWARD WILLES, B.A., was instituted in 1881.

All Saints' Church, Calverton.

The church was rebuilt on almost the same foundation, in 1818, by lord Arden, and the rev. Dr. Butler, the then patron and rector; but it was subsequently improved, and the windows were filled with stained glass, both ancient and modern, of the finest colours and workmanship, at the expense of the Hon. and Rev. Charles George Percival, rector. The edifice, which stands in an elevated situation, on the eastern side of the highway leading to Stony Stratford, is in the Early English style, and its component parts are a west tower, nave, south aisle and porch, chancel, baptistry, and vestry. The tower is square and massive, with a circular stair-turret at the north-west angle; and it contains five bells, inscribed:

First: W & J TAYLOR CHURCH CLOCK & CHIME MAKERS FECIT 1822

Second: TAYLOR FOUNDER OXFORD 1822, and two sixpences inserted.

Third: 1822.

Fourth: Blank.

Fifth: THIS PEAL WAS RECAST BY W & J TAYLOR OXFORD NOV 20 1822. This bell has three five-shilling pieces inserted after the inscription, and its weight is 17 cwt.

The roofs are covered with slate, and finished with ornamental ridge tiles; the aisle has a traceried parapet with gurgoyles; the baptistry displays handsome crocketed pinnacles, with the symbols of St. Matthew on the south side and the symbol of St. John on the east; the gable front of the porch is embellished with a canopied niche, a stone cross, and two octagonal pinnacles, having conical tops, terminating in flowered finials; the outer gates of the porch are of iron, and are highly ornamented; and within the porch is a pointed arch, opening into the aisle. The west door, in the tower, is under a semicircular arch, resting on two short Norman columns. In the interior, the nave and aisle are divided by three pointed arches, with octagon pillars. These pillars are the only remaining parts of the old church. The roofs are of oak, with carved corbals in wood and stone, representing angels, foliage, birds, etc. The tower arch is circular, and the chancel

arch is a fine pointed one, with clustered columns. The nave and aisle are of fine white stone, and seated with open oak benches. The three windows on the north side of the nave, of three lights each, are filled with stained glass. The easternmost window contains the figures and names in Latin, of Saints Simon, Cecilia, Fides, Michael, Stephen, and Mary Magdalene; the centre window exhibits the effigies of Saints Roch, George, Mary the Virgin, Edmund, Margaret, and Augustine; and the figures in the window on the west side of the centre one represent Saints John, Anna, Phillip, Thaddeus, Agnes, and Matthias. The aisle is lighted by five windows, all of stained glass, charged with effigies of St. Catherine, St. Ethelreda, and the four Evangelists. The west window exhibits four medallions of Christ; walking on the sea, healing Bartimeus, disputing with the doctors, and in the house of Mary and Martha.



Of yo' charite pray for the soules of John Robys & Johan his wyfe the whiche
 John decesed the iij day of Nobembre the yer of o' lord m'berix and Johan
 decessed y^e day of y^e yer of o' lord m'b^e o' whose soull ihu hane mcy.

The panels of the pulpit are filled with the effigies of Saints Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and John the Baptist.

The chancel is lighted by three windows, that in the east end being of three lights, contain figures of Saints Peter and Paul, and representations of the crucifixion, entombment, and resurrection. In the south window are Saints Thomas and Andrew; in the north one Saints Bartholomew and James. The floor of the chancel is laid with Minton tiles in mosaic pattern, with a tessellated border; those within the communion rails are encaustic. The four corbals of the ceiling

are carved angels bearing scrolls inscribed in gold and blue letters, with appropriate mottoes. The walls of the chancel are wainscotted with oak to the height of about six feet; the remainder is covered with incised stucco, painted in polychrome. The reredos is of Caen stone, elegantly carved, and decorated with mosaics depicting the adoration of the Magi. The oak stalls are tastefully carved. The baptistry is entered from the aisle beneath a richly carved pointed arch. The font is of Caen stone and stands in the tower. The window in the south wall of the baptistry contains a beautiful representation, in stained glass, of the Nativity; and in the east wall is a circular window filled with angels bearing musical instruments. A handsome pointed doorway on the north side of the chancel, leads to the vestry. In the chancel is a neat mural tablet of marble in memory of Mary, wife of the Hon. and Rev. C. G. Percival, rector of this parish, and daughter of the Rev. Primatt Knapp, rector of Shenley, who died in 1832, aged 27 years.

The only ancient sepulchral slab, with brasses, retained from the old church is in the floor near the entrance to the baptistry, from the aisle. It is rather curious, having evidently been engraved prior to the death of the wife, though inscribed to her memory as well as to that of the husband; the date and age in her case having been left blank.

The Old Church of Calverton.



THE OLD CHURCH, CALVERTON.

and a larger one on the east end. The entrance door to the chancel was also on the south side. Between the nave and the aisle were three pointed arches, resting on two octagon pillars, with square bases, and two demi pillars at the east and west ends. There were few ancient monuments or slabs, excepting a portion of one large stone, with the marks of two figures, and a smaller one between them, besides the brass above alluded to.

The Rectory House, Calverton.

The parsonage house was handsomely rebuilt in 1820, by Charles George, lord Arden, the patron, and is a good brick mansion,

situated in about nine acres of tastefully arranged grounds, the site of a Roman encampment, about a quarter of a mile from the church.

Calverton Almshouses.

Near the church are six neat almshouses, built in 1830, for six poor men and women, by the Hon. and Rev. Charles George Percival, on ground granted by the late Lord Carington, for the poor of the parishes of Calverton and Beachampton. A stone in the west end of the building, is inscribed, "Deo ac Pauperibus."

Charities of Calverton.

For the bequests of Sir Simon Benet and Symon Benet, see the charities of Stony Stratford at page 390.

The rent of 7 acres 32 poles of land, left by an unknown donor is applied for charitable purposes; and there are also a few cottages belonging to this charity.

Ambrose Benet, in 1630, left a rent-charge of twenty shillings a-year to the poor of Calverton, issuant out of the manor of Rotherhithe. in Surrey.

In 1652 Willlam Elmer, died at Beachampton, by his will left about sixty acres of land, with a farm house, &c., the rents and profits to be given in money and cloth to eight poor men and eight poor women, viz., three men and three women of Beachampton; one man and one woman each of Maids' Morton, Nash, and Calverton; and two men and two women of Whaddon.



SHENLEY.

HE township of Shenley Church End constitutes a scattered village and a parish of 1,662 acres, in the Newport Hundreds; but the hamlet of Shenley Brook End, of 1,606 acres is in the Cottesloe Hundreds.

The village of Shenley Church End is small and pleasantly seated in a well wooded district, and is distant $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west from Fenny Stratford; $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from Stony Stratford; and 6 miles south-west by south from Newport Pagnell.

Shenley Brook End is a scattered hamlet about one mile southward.

The township is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell; petty sessional division of Stony Stratford; rural deanery and arch-deaconry of Buckingham; and diocese of Oxford.

The entire parish has a population of 499, who are mostly employed in agricultural pursuits.

There is some reason to conjecture, that the Romans had a station in this place, and in several other places along the line of their great road, the Watling Street. Rather extensive earth works are very manifest in a field now called Toothill, in this parish, at no great distance from the line of this old road, which, from their construction and quadrangular form, appear to have been a work of this people. Three sides of an encampment are yet perfect; and, from the width and depth of the ditch, and height of the embankment, it was apparently a post of considerable strength. The other side was probably levelled for the convenience of the old manor house, which stood within the encampment the last remains of which were pulled down in 1774, by Matthew Knapp, then lord of the manor. Adjoining these earthworks is a small wooded eminence, entirely moated round, and surrounded by water. The Rev. Primatt Knapp, who succeeded his brother Matthew, built a rural cottage on this wooded island; placed a draw-bridge across the narrowest part of the moat: and cut walks through the wood. At that time there were found many small stone tiles, having perforations in them for pegs; and some small thin brass coins, having the word, "Nuremburg" upon them.*

In a direct line with this there is another moated situation, at the end of Shenley Wood, occupied by a farm house; and before the wood was planted, this was visible from the moat; and again visible from another similar situation, at Tattenhoe; and there is also in a line with the latter, adjoining the hedge that bounds Bletchley Field, another small moated site. All these were obviously in communication with each

* These are known as Nuremburg Counters and are frequently found at Olney, Lavendon, and Clifton Reynes.

other: and perhaps, stations capable of mutual support, and places from which the surrounding country could be watched; in all probability, they communicated with another at, or near, Bletchley, and with the Roman Station at Fenny Stratford; and by which all that part of Watling Street might have been defended from attack.

Manorial History of Shenley.

Before the conquest, this extensive parish, containing at the least three manors, besides other lands, appears to have been chiefly in the possession of Burchard, a thane, and steward to Edward the Confessor; and, at the time of the Domesday Survey, is described in that record as having been given by the new sovereign to his followers, in the following proportions: Hugh the earl held the principal manor, described in Sigelai Hundred, as holden under him by a subfeudatory tenent, named also Hugh, who was taxed for it as two hides. There were ten carucates of land. In the demesne were three; and five villeins with six servants had five carucates, and two more might have been cultivated. Five carucates of pasture; and wood for fifty hogs. It was and had been worth one hundred shillings; and in the reign of Edward, £6. This manor, Burchard, king Edward's hurscarle, had formerly holden, with power to sell it.

There was also another manor, holden by the same Hugh, of the earl, as five hides, in which there were five carucates; four carucates were cultivated and a fifth might have been added. Here were eight villeins; five carucates of pastures; wood for fifty hogs, altogether valued at £3; and in the time of Edward, at £4. This manor had also belonged to Burchard, Edward's thane.

This earl Hugh was Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester: and the distinction between Shenley Church End and Brook End, was even then recognised; the former being computed at two hides, and the latter at five hides; and Hugh, the subfeudatory of the earl of Chester, was probably the ancestor of William de Mansel, who is subsequently traced in possession of these manors, in the time of king John, holden under the honour of Chester, but this can only be a matter of inference or conjecture; for, as relates to this honour, the connecting link of the chain, which the Liber Niger might have supplied, is altogether wanting, Hugh Kevelioc, earl of Chester, in the time of Henry II., having neglected or refused to make any return of the knight's fees then holden by him. This earl Hugh, was the father of Roger Beauchamp, to whom the barony of Bedford had been given by William Rufus; and on failure of whose male issue, in 1277, their demesnes here are presumed to have come to the Mowbrays.

The Mansels, if Browne Willis be correct, continued in possession of this estate until the end of the reign of Henry III.; but appear to have alienated it to the family of Vache, before or at the commencement of the reign of Edward I.

Thomas le Mansel, the son of William before mentioned, held Shenley according to the Testa de Nevil, one knight's fee, *in capite*, of the

countess of Arundel ; but, having taken part with the rebellious barons against Henry III., his lands were thereupon possessed by the king, and bestowed upon William de Ayette, one of his more faithful adherents, and the two daughters of Thomas le Mansel were thus deprived of their inheritance ; but Richard de la Vache, who had married Matilda, one of those co-heiresses (Alice, the other daughter, being married to Robert de Verdun), was, under the Dictum de Kenilworth, permitted to redeem Shenley, and then held it *in capite*, as of the earl of Arundel and honour of Chester paying one mark to the king annually. And the said Richard de la Vache, was then also patron of the church ; to which William le Mansel, his ancestor, had presented his clerk, in the reign of John.

In 1275, it was returned, that Sir John de Grey, lord of Bletchley and Water Eaton, had possessed the manor of Shenley, and committed great waste and damage there. But he did not long retain it ; for it appears, by another inquisition, about three years afterwards, that Richard de la Vache then held it *in capite*, as the earl of Arundel, of the Honour of Chester, paying one mark to the king annually. Before 1285 a partition was made of the lands of the Mansels ; and Richard, son of Richard de la Vache and Mabell his wife, and Robert de Verdun, and Alice his wife, were summoned by Quo Waranto, to answer to the lord the king touching their claim to view of frankpledge and weyf of their tenants in the manor of Shenley, pertaining to the crown, without special license for the same.

Richard and Mabell, and Robert and Alice, appeared by their Attorney, and pleaded, that the whole vill was of their fee, excepting a small portion belonging to Thomas Fitz Eustace, which is geldable ; and say, that part of these lands is holden by view of the king's bailiff ; and that they pay to the said bailiff, one mark annually ; and as to view of frankpledge, that they have no gallows, tumbrell, pillory, nor other judicialia ; and call to witness, Gilbert de Boyville, the sheriff, then present, to testify the same. Gilbert de Thornton followed, and stated, that one mark was annually paid for the same.

Sir Richard de la Vache is said to have died possessed of this manor in 1366. He seems to have survived his grant of free warren only about three years, and was a knight of the garter. He was succeeded in this estate by Philip, his son and heir, who presented to the church in 1377 ; and in 1386, was a representative in Parliament for this county. He died in 1407 ; and his will was proved in October of that year. He left issue an only daughter, either Blanche or Margaret, who, being married to Richard lord Grey de Wilton, carried the manor and advowson of Shenley, and the manor of Vache, in Chalfont St. Giles, into that noble family. Richard, lord Grey, had signalised himself in the French Wars, and died at Water Hall, in the parish of Bletchley, in August 1442, leaving Reginald, his son and heir, then twenty-one years of age. He was buried in Bletchley church, which he had nearly rebuilt. Margaret his wife, surviving him, was married, secondly, to Thomas de Grey, younger son of lord Grey of Ruthyn ; and was, in 1460, lord Grey of Rugemont, to whom she carried this manor, and the advowson of Shenley ; and died 1452, leaving William de Grey,

her son and heir, 19 years old.

Willis presumed, that on the marriage of Margaret de la Vache with Richard, lord Grey of Wilton, a fine had been passed, by which this manor and advowson were settled on the right heirs of the said lord, in default of issue by his wife; and John, lord Grey de Wilton, who presented to the church in 1484, having, at his death, in 1505, left a son Edmund, lord Grey: the latter, and Dame Florence his wife, as appears by a fine in Michaelmas Term, in the same year, sold this estate to Sir Giles Daubigny, knight; who however, did not long possess it, but granted the advowson to Mr. Dennis, who presented to the church in 1508; but, before the year 1515, it had passed into the hands of Mr. Sergeant Pigott, of Whaddon Hall, by inheritance from his mother, the female heir of the family of Giffard, keepers of the chase.

Mr. Sergeant Pigott, who had probably purchased the other moiety of Shenley, died possessed of the whole manor and advowson 25 February 1519, having conveyed the fee to trustees, for the uses of his will; the inquisition, after his death, reciting the demise of this manor to Elizabeth his wife, for life; and remainder to his second son, Francis Pigott. She survived until 1541, when, under the above entail, Francis Pigott succeeded to this manor; but, in the same year, he conveyed the manors of Over Shenley and Nether Shenley, and the site of the priory of Snelshall, to the crown, on a forced exchange for Chicksand priory, in Bedfordshire, and lands at Kettering; and this manor continued to the crown during the reigns of Edward VI., and queen Mary, and the four first years of her successor, Elizabeth; who in the fifth of her reign in consideration of £805/9/5 granted the estate, by patent, to Edmund Ashfield, and Eleanor his wife, in fee, to hold by a twentieth part of a knight's fee describing it as "heretofore the possessions of Francis Pigott, Esq., and consisting of the manors of Over and Nether Shenley, with the advowson of the church, and divers rents and appurtenances."

Sir Edmund Ashfield died possessed of this manor about the end of the reign of Elizabeth, leaving an only daughter, Cecily, wife to Sir John Fortescue of Salden, knight, master of the great wardrobe, and chancellor of the exchequer to James I., who, in her right, became the lord of Shenley. He died in December 1607, and was succeeded in this manor by his second son, Sir Francis Fortescue, K.B., Sir William his eldest son, having died in his lifetime. Sir Francis held this estate until his death, in January 1623; when John Fortescue, his eldest son succeeded him. He was created a baronet; but died, without male issue, in 1683.

On his death, Broom Whorwood, who had married his daughter, became possessed of these manors, and about ten years afterwards, contracted for the sale of them to William Simpson, who resided here; but this contract was not carried into effect; whereupon these manors, with the advowson, were sold to John Knapp, citizen and drysalter, of London, who also became the purchaser of Little Linford manor. He died; and John Knapp, his eldest son, succeeded him in his possessions, and died possessed thereof.

Matthew Knapp, his eldest son, was the next owner. He died in

possession of these manors in 1778, leaving only two daughters; whereupon his nephew, Nathaniel Matthew Knapp, eldest son of his next brother, succeeded to his manors of Linford and Shenley; but died unmarried in 1795.

The Rev. Primatt Knapp, B.A., rector of Shenley, succeeded to his inheritance, and was lord of the manors of Over and Nether Shenley in 1820.

Ecclesiastical History of Shenley.

In the time of William Rufus, Hugh, earl of Chester, gave the tithes of Shenley to the monastery of Utica, in Normandy. The glebe land of Shenley comprise one hundred and fifty acres in Brook End, and about sixty-four in Church End; the whole estate being now united, although anciently in two divisions, denominated the manors of Nether Shenley and Shenley Mansel. Shenley Church End has been constantly reckoned as belonging to the Newport Hundred, and Shenley Brook End to the Hundred of Cottesloe. The latter was enclosed by Act of Parliament, in 1752, but Church End is a very ancient enclosure. Here is no manor house or manorial site, but the woods are called Hoo Park, Shenley, and Oakhill.

In a terrier, dated in 1674, and signed by the Rev. George Cressey, the rectory is thus described:

THE DWELLING HOUSE.—In the new building a parlour, one bay, with a little closet and a ceiled chamber over it; with a study; a hall, with a ceiled chamber over it, and a little study; in the old building a kitchen, one bay, with a chamber over it; a milk-house and entry, one bay, with a chamber over it; and a boulting house, with a chamber over it. The old Hall, one bay, with a chamber over it; a little parlour, one bay; a school-house, one bay, two cellars next the hall, in the new building. The great barn, four bays, with a lean-to; the hay-barn, four bays; stable and dove-house of two bays, with two lean-tos; two tenements, containing two bays.

CHURCH END GLEBE, contains two yard-lands.—Church Close, six acres; Great Field Close, eighteen acres; the Ten Acres, the Pightle, Downhill Close, Sheepcote Close, Furzen Close, the Pightle.

BROOK END GLEBE contains $\frac{1}{2}$ yard-land.—In Cester Field, five butts one acre. Itm. one acre, the foreshooter lying east. Itm. one acre, Isabel Coates's land west. In Middle Field, four acres. In More Field, three and a half acres, and a head land.

A yearly rent of 4s 8d. issuing from a parcel of ground of Anthony Simpson, called Fulmer Close, for some parcel of ground unknown. In 1777, a dispute arose respecting the tithes of this parish, between Mr. Knapp, the rector, and Mr. Clarke, when a bill was brought in by the former, in the Exchequer, to enforce payment. After hearing the case fully argued, the court dismissed the bill, without costs; the lands in respect of which the said claims for tithes was set up, being proved to have been parcel of the possessions of the priory of Snelshall, and therefore exempt from tithes.

Rectors of Shenley.

WILLIAM MANSEL, presented by Sir Thomas Mansel, knight, in 1223, "ad personatum sex Marcarum in Ecclesia de Senle."

WILLIAM DE OVILLE, presented in 1229, by the same patron.

WILLIAM DE PINLE, presented in 1241.

- THOMAS DE BURGO, "R'r Ecc'l' omnium Sanctoꝝ de Aldwinckle factus R'r de Schenley," presented by the bishop, "die Lunæ post festum Sci Lucæ," 1629. He died; and
- ALEXANDER DE VALOYNES was presented by Lady Isabella de Albini, Countess of Arundell, 4 November 1272.
- RICHARD DE BEREFOED was presented 1294
- PETER PASSELEW, resigned in 1305, and
- WILLIAM BURDELEYS was presented 15 July 1305, by Sir Richard de la Vache. He died; and
- WALTER DE LA VACHE was presented 14 August 1309, by the same patron. He died; and
- WILLIAM DE MARSWORTH was presented June 1340. He died and was succeeded by
- ROBERT FOULMERE, presented 25 July 1377 by Sir Philip de la Vache, knight. He resigned; and
- THOMAS THURLEBY was instituted 8 June 1386. His epitaph yet remains in the chancel.
- EDMUND WARD, presented 30 June 1432, by Richard, Lord Grey de Wilton.
- WILLIAM CLARK, presented by Sir Thomas Grey, knight. He died in 1449, and was succeeded by
- JOHN ADAM, presented by Sir Thomas Grey, knight of Rugemont, and admitted 8 August 1449. He exchanged for Baldswell rectory, in Norfolk, with
- JOHN SMITH, 12 December 1455. He resigned; and
- RICHARD CRANWELL, LL.B., was presented by Thomas Lord Grey of Rugemont, 9 February 1456. He exchanged for Upminster, in Essex, with
- JOHN GARTHWAITE, 11 January 1482. He died in 1484; and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM PICKERING, presented 8 December 1484, by John Lord Grey.
- RICHARD WALBANK was presented by Sir John de Grey, Lord of Wilton, 25 September 1485. He died in 1508.
- WILLIAM COWPER succeeded, who was presented 22 March 1508, by Hugh Dennis, Esq. His successor was
- THOMAS OSBORN, presented by the same patron 1510; and occurs rector in 1526, as also does
- WILLIAM MORYS, in 1534.
- BARTHOLOMEW WILLIAM was presented by Sir Giles Capel, knight, on the right of his wife, relict of Hugh Dennis, 5 May 1535. At his death
- THOMAS MAKYN, was presented 25 January 1544, by William Hougham and John Hougham, ex concessione Francis Pigott, Esq., of Stratton, in Bedfordshire. He occurs rector in 1561. He died; and
- EDMUND LEE was presented 7 December 1568, by Queen Elizabeth.
- RICHARD EDMUNDS, LL.B., rector of Wavendon (which he resigned in 1598), was presented in 1574, by Sir Edmund Ashfield, knight. He was buried here, and
- GEORGE WINSTANLEY, B.A., was presented 11 February 1605, by the Rev. George Dyos, rector of Hogton, by reason of the advowson having been granted to him by the Hon. Sir John Fortescue and Sir Francis Fortescue, knights.
- FRANCIS DUNCUMBE, instituted 13 March 1629, on the presentation of Elizabeth Winstansley, widow.
- WILLIAM DILLON, LL.D., presented 15 November 1630, by the earl of Shrewsbury. He set up, about 1634, a claim to the tithes of Tattenhoe. He was also rector of Farthingston, in Northamptonshire; but was imprisoned, and died in gaol.
- WILLIAM EGERTON, M.A., was instituted 24 January 1644, on the presentation of Thomas Egerton, of Adstock, gent., and William Carter, of Gawcott, yeoman, patrons, *pro hae vice*. He had been rector of Ellesborough from 1642.
- GEORGE CRESSY succeeded in 1657. He occurs rector in 1663 and 1683. He died; and
- JOHN JENNEY, M.A., a native of Fenny Stratford, was instituted 27 May 1684, on the presentation of John Gerard, Esq., and Thomas Potter, gent. At his death,
- JOHN BARBER, B.D., was presented by John Knapp, gent., 21 January 1701. He was of Trinity College, Oxford. M.A., 1688; B.D., 1697; D.D., 1713. He re-

signed; and

MATTHEW KNAPP, M.A., was presented 30 September 1709, by his father John Knapp, Esq. He was of Trinity College, Oxon. M.A., 5 May 1707. He died in 1752; and was succeeded by

SAMUEL COLLINS, M.A., inducted 14 July 1753, on the presentation of Matthew Knapp, Esq. He was of Balliol College. M.A., 9 May 1751; and held this living only till the following year, when his successor would take priest's orders. On his cession,

PRIMATT KNAPP, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxon (where both he and his brother Humphrey were students, being educated at Westminster), was presented by Matthew Knapp, Esq., and inducted 18 April 1755. He took the degree of M.A., 23 June 1759, and married, soon after taking possession of this living, a lady of good fortune, of the name of French, of a West India family, of the Island of Antigua. He greatly improved the house, which had been newly built by his father, and made several additional offices at the back of the house, having a faculty from the archdeacon's court, for that purpose. At his death, he was succeeded by his son,

PRIMATT KNAPP, B.A., presented 18 April 1793, who died 21 January 1838, his successor being

ROBERT WILLIAM SCURR, M.A., who was instituted in 1866. He was succeeded by THOMAS HUGH GARDE, who was instituted in 1880. He died, and was succeeded by EDGAR ASTLEY MILNE, B.A., who was instituted 1890. He was master of the North Bucks Harriers. He resigned this living to take the mastership of the Cattistock Hounds, in 1900. Mr. Milne is by no means the only clerical "M. F. H." Both George Eliot and James Anthony Froude contended that the old fox-hunting parson was a better parish priest, and had greater influence over his parishioners than the modern cleric who immures himself in a clergy-house.

St. Mary's Church, Shenley.

The church is an ancient cruciform structure, having a large tower in the middle. The earliest part is the chancel, which is Transition from Norman to Early English. The tower and the walls of the side aisles are embattled, and at the north-east angle of the tower is a good octagon staircase rising above that appendage. The tower contains a clock, and five bells inscribed:

First: NEWCOMBE MADE MEE 1615.

Second: NEWCOMBE MADE MEE 1616.

Third: BARTHOLOMEW ATTVM MADE ME 1593 T B.

Fourth: BARTHOLOMEW ATTVM MADE ME 1610.

Fifth: MISSI DE CELES ABEO NOMEN AMEN GABRELIS.

The nave, chancels, and aisles are covered with lead; the transepts are tiled. The principal entrance is through a good and well decorated porch, on the south side. In the interior the single-light windows, and a doorway on the north side are very good. Several of the windows are of good Decorated work, but some Perpendicular ones have been introduced. The west window of the nave, and the east window of the chancel, are each of five cinquefoil-headed lights, with tracery. There are six small lights in the clerestory of the nave. The four pointed arches on the south side of the nave are decorated with the dog tooth ornament, and rest on Norman columns; the arches of the north side are plain, and rest upon octagonal pillars. The pulpit is of oak;

the font is of sculptured stone. The transepts are small and are lighted with a window in the end of each. Three of the chancel windows are Norman, with the chevron moulding. There are some fine corbals composed of clustered shafts with rich capitals, but the roof which they once supported is gone. There is a small Norman doorway in the chancel.

In the chancel floor, on the south side of the communion table, is a sepulchral slab that has been robbed of its effigy; but the inscription, in brass, still remains, and reads:

*Hic iacet Thomas Churleby, quondam Rector isti ecclesie, qui obiit
xvj^o die Junii Anno dni M^occcc^oxxij^o cui aie p^opiciet De. Amen.*

On the north side of the table is another, likewise robbed of its effigy, with an inscription, in brass, as follows:

*Hic jacet Anna quondam uxor Johis Myrkeham Armigi consan-
guinea et Heres Phi de la Vache, Militis, que obiit. xxxiiij^o die Mens'
Novembr' Anno dni M^occcc^oxxbij^o cui aie p^opiciet De. Amen.*

Under the communion table is engraved, on stone, a man kneeling at a table or desk; and over his effigy an inscription in Latin, relating to Richard Edmunds, rector.

On the south wall of the chancel is a memorial to Robert William Scurr, who died June 24, 1866; and on the north wall there is a tablet to the memory of the Rev, Primatt Knapp, and his wife, Rebecca Ann.

In the south side of the chancel is a two-stalled sedilia, and an ambrey; there is also an ambrey in the north wall of the chancel. In the chapel on the north side of the chancel is a good double piscina.

On the north wall of the north transept is affixed a monument, composed of divers sorts of coloured marble, adorned with three pillars, one of jasper and two of porphyry, over the middlemost of which are the following arms and quarterings:

1. S. three mullets, and in a fess a trefoil, for *Ashfield*.
2. Az. an eagle displayed.
3. The same.
4. S. a chevron engrailed between three escallops.
5. Vaire.
6. Bendy of eight arg. and az. on a canton, a lion passant.
7. Three chevrons in base interlaced, and on a chief gu. three bezants.
8. As 1.

Under these arms, on two tablets:

Prudentia ac rerum usu insignis Edmundus Ashfyld miles cum Eleanor conjuge
hic situs est.

Hereditate in filias divisa, quæ Leo Fettiplaceo et Fortiscuto Uxores dederat
exacta ætatis moritur.

Underneath a sarcophagus, jutting out, at the bottom of which, on two other tablets, like those above, are these inscriptions:

Vixit annos septuaginta Septem. obiit viij. Cal. Februarii A^o Dnⁱ 1577.

Regnante Elizabetha.

Avitia filia Edvardi Leus Fettiplaceus Nepotes mœstissimi Avo bene-merito ex Testamento posuere.

The pedestal of this monument is an ancient marble, raised one foot from the ground.

The south cross aisle, or transept, is the burial place of the Staffords of Tattenhoe; and in it, is an altar tomb, on which lies the figure of a man in white marble, representing Thomas Stafford, who died in 1607, aged 80 years. The effigy is in full proportion, clothed in armour, the head resting on the left hand, and above is a tablet of black marble bearing an inscription, and coats of arms. Below the principal figure, on the front of the monument, are the effigies of the wife, and four sons, and three daughters of Mr. Stafford, all kneeling. The three eldest sons, and the eldest daughter bear a skull each, in their hands, to show that Death had claimed them. Beneath the figures are their paternal arms and names, according to seniority. The inscription is as follows:

Here resteth in peace Thomas Stafford of Tatenho, Esqvier, descended ovt of ye noble hovse of ye Staffords of Stafford, who leading a long and vertvovs life yealded vp the same in assvred hope to rise in CHRIST, in ye yeare 1697, ye 25 of March, his natal day, and ye 80 year of his age, leaving of his 4 sonnes, Thomas ye youngest surviving, and 3 daughters, Alice marieed to Baldwin Barnard, Eleanor wife to S^r Richard Thekeston, Knight, and Iane marieed to S^r Arthvr Savage, Knight.

Affixed to the wall is a white marble tablet inscribed to Thomas Stafford, Esq., of Tattenhoe, who died in 1684, aged 83 years. There is an ambrey in the south wall, and in the east wall is a carved bracket, in this transept.

On the south wall of the chancel is a tablet of variegated marble in memory of the Rev. Matthew Knapp, 43 years rector of this parish, who died in 1752, aged 68 years; and of Catherine, his wife, who died in 1763, aged 63 years. On the north side of the chancel is a memorial of William Primatt, Esq., of London, son-in-law of the Rev. Matthew Knapp. This gentleman died in 1771, aged 37 years.

The oldest register begins in the year 1636, and ends in 1649; and the next begins with 1653, the intermediate register having been lost.

Shenley House

Is a good stone mansion in a delightful situation near the church. The prospects from the house are extensive.

Shenley Almshouses.

The almshouse was founded in 1615, in pursuance of the will of Thomas Stafford, of Tattenhoe, for the maintenance of four poor men and two aged women; the former receiving 1s. 9d. a week in money, and the women 1s. 2d.; besides 13s. 4d. each at Christmas, towards providing them with clothing.

The estate settled on the almshouse, by the founder, is situate at Great Linford and was let for £140 a year, on a lease for 999 years,

paying out of it £35 per annum for the support of the charity. The estate belonged originally to the family of Worrall, of Newport Pagnell; and from them came to Roger Chapman, who left it on his death, in 1702, to his daughter, Mrs. Taylor; and who, about 1730, conveyed it to Thomas Uthwatt; from whom it passed into the hands of the present possessors. The charity continues to be administered under the direction of the owners of the manors of Westbury and Tattenhoe.

The Holy Thorn, Shenley.

Here is a remarkable tree or thorn, vulgarly supposed a slip from the famous Glastonbury thorn, and held in great veneration among the more superstitious classes of the inhabitants, who believe that it flowers at Christmas, although not invariably.

This tree, which is in a field on the right-hand side of the road leading to Shenley Brook End, and known as May Field, has had much more care bestowed upon it in the past than it has at present. It was guarded by post and rails which have nearly disappeared.

It must not be believed that it was actually a slip from the Glastonbury thorn, as there are several of this species of *crataegus monogyna* about the country, raised, it is supposed, from haws brought from the east by the Crusaders.

A singular habit of this hawthorn bush, is that it will flower twice in the year, and in this case when mild winters occur it is not unusual for it to blossom forth near Christmas time in this country.

The Manor of Westbury, Shenley.

That manor of Shenley, which is distinguished by the name of Westbury, was held by Richard Engaine, at the compiling of the Domesday Book, and was reckoned a part of the Honour of Benefield, in Northamptonshire, which place became the head of his barony. It is there stated, that Richard Engaine held two hides and a half for a manor; the land was sufficient for two ploughs; and there were eight villeins, two servants, two carucates of pasture, and wood for fifty hogs; always worth forty shillings.

Vrso de Bersere also held two hides and a half, called a manor; worth forty shillings in the reign of Edward; and thirty shillings at the Domesday survey. There were two carucates of arable. In the demesne one hide and a half; and one carucate, and a villein had a carucate, with panage for fifty hogs.

It is now reckoned a part of the township of Brook End, and has continued a distinct manor, and held by separate lords, from the Conquest down to the present time; but, as those lords had made no disposition of the ecclesiastical rights of Westbury before the time of legal memory, they have accrued to the rectors of Shenley. It does not appear that the lords of this manor took any share in founding the church, or had any right to the presentation.

The earliest feudatory tenants of this manor appear to have been a family of the name of Fitz Eustace, who were in possession of it as early as the time of Henry III., and continued to hold it in the reign of

Richard II. ; probably, till 1477 ; when it was purchased, together with Tattenhoe, by Thomas Stafford, the son of Anthony Stafford, and grandson of Sir John Stafford, of the family of that name, of Grafton, in Worcestershire, and of Blatherwick, in Northamptonshire. He died in 1517, and was buried at Warendon. He devised this manor to his illegitimate son, William Stafford ; who died possessed of it in 1530.

Thomas Stafford, his son, succeeded to this estate, and died possessed of it, in 1607 ; he resided at Tattenhoe ; and was buried in Shenley church. His successor was his son, Thomas Stafford, who held these estates till his death, in 1632 ; he was also buried at Shenley. He was succeeded by his son ; also named Thomas Stafford, who died in 1684, aged 68. His successor in this manor, was Edmund his son, who survived his father only about five weeks.

Charles Stafford, his son and successor, mortgaged his estate here, beyond his means of redeeming it, and it was seized on by the mortgagee, Thomas James Selby, sergeant-at-law, who held this manor as mortgagee in possession. Charles Stafford died in great poverty, about 1717 ; and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Mr. Sergeant Selby left these estates to his son, Thomas James Selby, who obtained the possession of the fee of this manor, by a decree in chancery, in 1733 ; and died possessed of it in 1772. By his will he devised it to his heir-at-law, if any should be found ; and in case no heir-at-law were found, then he appointed William Lowndes, of Winslow, his heir-at-law, on condition that he took the name of Selby.

William Lowndes had to resist the claims of several individuals, who set themselves up as the heirs of the late Mr. Selby ; but all these claimants failing to establish their pedigree, the court of chancery finally decreed the possession to Mr. Lowndes, about 1770, he having assumed the name of Selby ; and he died possessed of it in 1810.

William Lowndes, his eldest son, who had, for some time previous to his father's death, resided at Whaddon Hall, succeeded to the manor and the name of Selby ; but soon after, obtained the king's license to bear also the name of Lowndes, in addition to that of Selby.



LOUGHTON.

LOUGHTON parish is bounded on the north by Bradwell; on the east by Great Woolstone and Woughton-on-the-Green; on the south-west, by Shenley Church End and Shenley Brook End; and on the north-west, by Bradwell Abbey. The area of the parish is 1,536 acres; the population is 348, many of whom find employment at the Wolverton Works. In 1710, there were 58 families, with a population of 220.

The London & North-Western Railway runs direct through the parish from north-west to south-east, a distance of two miles sixty-six yards.

Loughton is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Stony Stratford, rural deanery and arch-deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The scattered village lies a little to the north-east of the Stony Stratford and Fenny Stratford road (the Roman Watling Street), which divides the parishes of Loughton and Shenley Church End. It is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east, from Stony Stratford; $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west, from Fenny Stratford; and four miles south-west from Newport Pagnell. It is nearly opposite the forty-ninth milestone from London, on a little stream, which running south-west, passes through Bradwell to Wolverton, to join the river Ouse. It anciently consisted of two manors and two parishes, each having its respective church, and distinct possessors, rectors, and patrons, under the denominations of Great and Little Loughton, until the union of the two parishes, and their ecclesiastical consolidation, in 1408, in the reign of Henry IV.

The Baptist chapel was erected in 1884. It is a neat red brick building with stone dressings, and is capable of seating 200 people.

The well-appointed almshouses upon the Watling Street Road, known as the "Loughton Memorial Cottages," were erected to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of queen Victoria, in 1897, mainly through the support of Mr. F. W. Woollard, of Stony Stratford.

There are not the least remains of Little Loughton church, though it stood, as tradition says, and so it appears, by the digging up of human bones, near the manor house.

There is reputed a chalybeate well here.

Manorial History of Loughton.

At the Domesday Survey, the lands here are described in the following manner: In Lochintone, surveyed in Sigelai Hundred, the earl of Morton had half a hide, which was holden of him by Walter, commonly understood to have been Walter Bolebec, who likewise

possessed a large estate here, holden in capite of the king, but this half hide, with half a carucate and one villein, was valued only at twenty shillings : when he first held it at five shillings ; in the time of king Edward at twenty shillings ; and it had been anciently holden by Elmaer, a man of Aluric Fitz-Goding, who could sell it.

Walter Giffard held lands here, entered in the survey (as has been supposed, erroneously) in Rovelai Hundred, as holden of him by his subfeudatory, Ivo, for four hides and an half. There were four carucates and an half of land. In the demesne two ; and five villeins with two bordars had one carucate ; and another might have been added to it. There were four carucates of pastures, valued at twenty shillings when he first held it, thirty shillings ; and in the time of king Edward, £4. Five thanes had formerly holden this manor and could sell it.

Maignon Brito held another considerable manor here described like the earl of Morton's land in Sigelai Hundred, as holden under him by two knights, as five hides, and denominated a manor. There were five carucates, two in the demesne ; and six villeins with two borders having one carucate and a half, and half a carucate might have been added thereto.

There was one servant ; and pasture for five carucates. Altogether estimated constantly at £3 ; and the like in king Edward's days. This manor had formerly belonged to Aluric, a thane of king Edward's with power to sell it.

It is related, that the half hide of earl Morton's land here, was, at a latter period, held under the honour of Berkhamstead, by the twentieth-part of a knight's fee ; which together with the manor of Walter Giffard, is presumed to have constituted Great Loughton, being that part which lies westward of the brook ; while the five hides holden as a manor by Maignon Briton, as before described, became part of the barony of Wolverton.

Ivo, who was a feudal tenant to Walter Giffard in Loughton, is said to have taken his surname from the place, the name of Ivo de Loughton frequently occurring in records of that period ; and although the descendants of this family have not been regularly deduced, John de Loughton is presumed to have been the founder of the church, to which he presented his clerk in 1218 ; and William de Loughton and Agnes his wife, having, in the same year, given to Snelshall priory, a yard-land in Loughton, abutting on Watling Street, and lying in Little Loughton the deed being attested by Simon, parson of Loughton Magna.

In 1270, a fine was levied between John, son of John de Loughton, querent, and John de Loughton, impediēt, of lands and rents in Great Loughton, and of the advowson of the church, to the use of John, son of John.

In 1284, a fine was levied between John, son of John de Loughton, querent, and Roger Engaine and Agnes his wife, deforcients, of lands in Little Loughton, to the use of John.

In 1294, John de Loughton granted his capital mansion, with all the appendages of a manor, to Ivo de Loughton, his brother, and Cecilia, the daughter of Robert de Stoke Hamond, whom Ivo seems to

have married. No mention is made in the deed, of the advowson of the church, which appears to have been about this time, separated from the manor; for on the resignation of the rector named William (doubtless the person before mentioned), the successor was presented by Joane, the daughter of John de Loughton; and the succeeding presentations were made by the family of Ardes.

In 1308, a fine was levied between Thomas de Loughton, querent, and William Kentish of Woketon, and Joanna his wife, impediens, of lands in Little Loughton, to the use of Thomas.

In 1311, a fine was levied between Ivo de Loughton and Henry Spigurnel, knight, lord of Cosgrove, in Northamptonshire, by which this manor passed to Sir Henry Spigurnel; to whom Alexander de Stoke Hamond, at the same time, released all his right in this manor. And from these circumstances, it may reasonably be presumed, that Ivo de Loughton and Cecilia died without issue; and that Alexander de Stoke Hamond was the heir of Cecilia, consequently, his release was necessary to perfect the conveyance of the manor of Sir Henry Spigurnel, because Ivo and Cecilia had been enfeoffed in the estate as joint tenants, by William de Loughton, by the deed before cited. Sir Henry Spigurnel, on the purchase of this manor, granted it back for life, to Ivo de Loughton; but the time of his death, though not ascertained, must have happened before 1328, for, in that year, Sir Henry Spigurnel died possessed of Loughton, leaving a son, named Thomas, the heir of his estates.

In 1312, a fine was levied between Thomas de Loughton, querent, and Adam Braundes and Asceline his wife, deforcients, of land and meadow in Little Loughton, to the use of Thomas.

In 1324, a fine was levied between John Finyan, of Little Loughton, and Agnes his wife, querents, and Adam Braundys, of Loughton, and Asceline his wife, deforcients, of lands in Little Loughton, to the use of John.

In 1329, a fine was levied between Thomas de Loughton and Elizabeth his wife, querents, and John Hutcham, chaplain, deforcient, of the manor of Little Loughton, to the use of John, who granted the same to Thomas and Elizabeth for life; with remainder to Thomas, son of Thomas, and the heirs of his body; remainder to Robert, brother to William, and heirs of his body.

In the same year, an entail was made of the manor of Little Loughton, to the issue of the body of Thomas Loughton and Elizabeth his wife; and about the same time, an entail of Great Loughton, to Eudo de Stoke. A fine was also levied between Eudo de Stoke, querent, and Adam Braundesse, of Great Loughton, and Asceline his wife, deforcients, of messuages, lands, and rents in Great Loughton, to the use of Eudo.

In 1407, George de Loughton and Arnehan his wife, passed a fine of the manor of Loughton Parva, in order to convey it to a purchase; and in 1467, it was conveyed in pursuance thereof, to Thomas Edy, of Stony Stratford; from whom it passed to James Edy; who in 1493, gave this manor by will, to Philippa his wife; soon after which, it was

held by John Edy; whose daughter, Isabell, carried it by marriage, to John Pigott, of Beachampton, son of Richard Pigott, of Ripon, in Yorkshire, who was a younger brother of that family.

In 1467, John Edy, of Stony Stratford, confirmed to Richard, earl Rivers, Sir Richard Rivers, his son, etc., his manor of Loughton which he had of the gift and feoffment of John Boteler, clerk, and other feoffees of George Loughton and Arnethan his wife, dated 4 April. Willis, states, that "Great Loughton came in the time of Edward III., to the Ardres, of Turvey, in Bedfordshire, who held it from 1350 to 1414, when the Rushleys seem to have acquired it, by the marriage of a widow, or Ardys; and that the family of Lucy, of Haversham, bought Ardys and and Rushley's right. In 1557, Thomas Lucy sold his interest to Thomas Hopper; which family conveyed the manor of Great Loughton to John Crane, in 1612, and the latter, in 1655, sold it to Ralph Holt; but when Crane conveyed his demesnes at Great Loughton, to Edward Alston, he reserved the manor to himself; so that the Alstons never were possessors of Great Loughton manor; and thus this manor became included and merged in Little Loughton manor. Alston's son sold his demesnes here to Thomas Hanslap, about 1699 (who sold his estate at Aynhoe to purchase it); and dying possessed of this manor in 1716, it came to his son, John Hanslap, who was the owner in 1735, and had newly built part of the capital house. So that Ralph Holt, of Little Loughton, became sole lord of the whole parish, by his grandfather's purchase of the manor in 1755.

Thomas Cavendish of Cavendish, marrying Alice, daughter and heir of John Smith, junior, of Cavendish, became possessed, in the reign of Henry VII., of the manor of Loughton, Spigurnel, Dagnal, etc.

A fine was passed in Easter Term 1557, between Thomas Lucy, deforciant, and Thomas Hopper, claimant, of the manor of Loughton, and lands there.

In 1584, queen Elizabeth, on the partition of Henry, lord Wentworth, son and heir of Sir Thomas Wentworth, lord Wentworth, to whom the queen had promised an annuity of £200 out of the concealed lands formerly devoted to superstitious uses, granted to Theophilus Adams and Thomas Butler, certain lands and tenements in Bradwell, Loughton, Shenley, Thornborough, Stony Stratford, and Stoke Hammond, at the annual rent altogether of twenty shillings, late belonging to Bradwell priory.

In 1599, Edmund Pigott obtained from George Pigott and Clement Pigott, a lease of all their right and interest in the manor of Loughton. George Pigott, was second son of John Pigott, of Beachampton, and Isabel his wife.

In 1607, a demise to George Salter, was made of a house in Loughton, called the Church House, which had been concealed from the king.

Mr. Knapp asserted that Loughton manor, as also Lathbury, remained in the crown; but this manor of Loughton, as appears by many evidences, was vested solely in Mr. Holt, as lord of the whole parish.

The present lord of the manor is Mr. Walter Cadman.

Ecclesiastical History of Loughton.

The advowson was holden with the manor; and in the reign of Henry III., descending to the family of Loughton, came with their demesnes, to the family of Edy; and in the reign of Edward IV., passed by the marriage of Isabella, sole daughter and heir of John Edy, of Stony Stratford, to John Pigott of Beachampton, son of Richard Pigott of Little Horwood,

In 1612, Edmund Pigott and Elizabeth his wife, conveyed this manor of Loughton, by deed dated 1 October, to John Crane, of Wood Rising, in Norfolk, who sold all his right and interest at Loughton, to Ralph Holt, by deed dated 29 May 1655; whereupon, the latter became possessed of the whole parish; for Great Loughton manor, which had passed from Ardres to Rushley, and from Rushley to the family of Lucy, was in 1577, in the possession of Hopper; and he, about 1650, conveyed the manor to Crane; who subsequently transferred his interest to Edward Alston. Alston, or his son, sold his right, in 1699, to Thomas Hanslap; who died possessed in 1716, when it descended to his son, John Hanslap, who was the possessor in 1735. He rebuilt part of the mansion house at Little Loughton, which was the residence of the Pigotts and Cranes; but when Mr. Crane conveyed his demesnes in Great Loughton to Alston, he reserved the manor, which never came to the possession of Alston. The Cranes held the manor only about forty-three years; when Francis Crane gave the advowson of the church to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which society he had been Fellow, by deed dated 14 November 1678.

Ever since the inclosure of the parish the tenant of the glebe farm has occupied the glebe or rectory house. The rector resides in a large commodious house erected in 1868, situated in pleasant grounds, near the church.

The valor of the rectory, in Ecton, was £14 5 2½; the present approximate value is £272 and the real net value £175 per annum.

Rectors of Great Loughton.

SIMON DE LUHTON, presented in 1218.

WILLHELMUS resigned in 1311.

ALANUS KEMP, presented by John Loughton the younger, 9 March 1311.

ROGER DE BRUNN resigned; and was succeeded by

NICHOLAS REDE, presented 5 August 1357, by John de Ardres, of Turvey. On his cession,

RALPH DE IDBURY was presented 8 November 1357.

JOHN SMITH DE STONY STRATFORD, presented 6 February 1361, by Isolda, late the wife of John Ardres de Turvey. He exchanged with Shepton vicarage, in Oxfordshire, with

RICHARD WILKIN, 17 October 1371, who was presented by Alan de Rushley, of Turvey. He exchanged for Ealing vicarage, in Middlesex, with

ROBERT HAYTEFIELD, or HATFIELD, 28 July 1374, who was presented by Alan de Rushley; and exchanged for St. Andrew's, Hertford, with

JOHN GERNEYS, 2 November 1377; who exchanged for Bodyham, in Sussex, with

WILLIAM PYKARD, 28 July 1382, on the presentation of Alan Rushley; he exchanged for St. Andrew's Ilketshall, in the diocese of Norwich, with

WILLIAM HATON, 7 August 1385, on the same presentation he exchanged for Roug-ham vicarage, in Norfolk; with
 JOHN CHENEY, who was presented by the same patron, 3 August 1395.
 WILLIAM THOMAS or TORLEY, rector of Little Loughton (who vacated by resignation), was admitted rector of Great and Little Loughton in 1408, on the consolidation of the two parishes, which were then united by the consent of the patron and parishioners.

Rectors of Little Loughton.

REGINALDUS, presented 1219.
 WILLIAM HARANG, presented in 1231, by Geoffrey de Lucton.
 GALFRIDUS resigned and was succeeded by
 LAWRENCE DE COVESGRAVE, instituted 2 May 1300, on the presentation of Thomas de Loughton Parva. He resigned; and
 GALFRIDUS DE COVESGRAVE was presented by Thomas de Loughton, 2 June 1300; at his death
 BARTH. DE LUCHTON or LOUGHTON, instituted 4 January 1305. On his cession, JOHN DE RANARDWICK was instituted 4 April 1305, on the presentation of Thomas Loughton.
 ALANUS DICTUS CEMP, instituted 7 October 1309. This is supposed to be alias Kemp, rector of Great Loughton in 1311. On his resignation,
 WILLIAM DE LOUGHTON was instituted 9 March 1321, on the presentation of Thomas de Loughton.
 MICH. DE SHARNEBROOK, instituted 1 November 1332, on the presentation of Thos. de Loughton.
 JOHN LEGER was instituted 13 March 1350; he exchanged for Cosgrove, with JOHN COLE, 8 April 1358, who was presented by Thomas de Loughton; he resigned in 1352.
 THOMAS DE LINFORD MAGNA, instituted July 1352.
 HARDULPHUS DE STANTON BARRY, presented 3 August 1357, by Thomas de Loughton.
 WILLIAM DE COSBY, admitted 6 December 1365. He exchanged for Abbot's Langley vicarage, in Hertfordshire, with
 JOHN ATTE HALLE, vicar of Abbot's Langley, who was admitted 14 December 1368; he was presented by Rogerus de Luda Dom de Wolverton; he exchanged for Fulham, in Middlesex, with
 WILLIAM CAPEL DE SAPCOTE, 20 March 1369.
 JOHN GIFFARD, resigned in 1386; and was succeeded by
 JOHN ANDE, presented 10 September 1386, per Johem de Loughton Dom de Loughton Parva. He exchanged for Bozeat, in Northamptonshire, with
 ELYAS WYTHYFORD, 23 May 1392, who was presented by John de Loughton, he exchanged for Ewhurst, in Hants, with
 JOHN NICKEL, 26 October 1394, on the same presentation; he exchanged for Over Overton, with
 WILLIAM DALBY, 14 August 1397, on the same presentation; and exchanged for a Chantry in St. Peter le Bayley, Oxfordshire.
 JOHN KIRBY MALSOVUS, presented 13 December 1398.
 JOHN GRAVENGERE, presented 16 April 1399, by John Loughton.
 JOHN WRYTE, presented by John Loughton, on the death of John Grainger, 12 October 1407; and exchanged for Goldington, Bedfordshire, with
 WILLIAM TORLEY, 27 May 1408.

Rectors of Great and Little Loughton.

WILLIAM TORLEY, presented 27 May 1408, on the union of the two parishes. At his death
 JOHN TAYLOR, was presented by Lady Joane de Loughton, 29 October 1409. He resigned; and
 GILBERT BURY was presented 16 December 1414, by Thomas Ardys, but exchanged for Crowelton, in Northamptonshire, with

WILLIAM HAWKINS, 22 September 1418, who was presented by Elizabeth Lady Clinton. He exchanged for Marden vicarage, in Kent, with

PETER GUNTHORP, 11 March 1421.

JOHN FULLER resigned in 1471; he was succeeded by

WILLIAM POPE, who was presented in 1471, by Thomas Loughton and Robert Fysher; he willed, 26 December 1485, to be buried in All Saints' chancel of Loughton church.

HUGH PARKE was presented 22 October 1485, by Thomas Loughton. He died; and was buried here 1514. At his decease,

RICHARD STOKES, B.D., was presented 20 December 1514, by Robert Pigott. He built the south aisle of the church, by a donation of twenty acres of land. At his death

WILLIAM WALKER was presented 8 March 1546, by Robert Pigott.

JAMES CALDWELL was collated by the bishop, *ratione lapsus*, 25 April 1573. He died; and

GEORGE GOODMAN, M.A., was presented 22 February 1592, by Thomas Waterhouse, who married the second daughter and one of the co-heiresses of Valentine Pigott. He died 26 April 1595.

JOHN LEDDEN, vicar of Whaddon, presented 13 December 1596, by George Pigott

NICHOLAS PARSONS, B.A., was presented in 1597, by Henry Knyveton, but was set aside; and

EDWARD BAKER succeeded in 1625; being presented by the heirs of Loughton. He was buried here 25 February 1651.

JAMES NORMAN succeeded in 1652. He was buried here, in 1682.

DANIEL BRATTEL, S.T.P., presented 1 March 1681, by Trinity College, Cambridge, to which the advowson had been given. He died 5 February 1694; and was buried in Trinity College Chapel; having by his will, contributed £2 towards the purchase of a new chalice for the communion; and was succeeded by

GEORGE MODD, B.D., presented and instituted July 1695. He died in Trinity College 7 September 1722; and was succeeded by

LEONARD THOMPSON, M.A., presented 19 September, and instituted 28 December 1722; claiming, under a clause in the will of Francis Crane, dated 14 November 1678, as the son of an inhabitant of Loughton, that, as a fellow of his college he was entitled to preference and title to this rectory before any other of the said college, whenever such vacancy arises. He died here; and was buried 12 March 1752; being succeeded by

PHILIP YOUNG, D.D., instituted 3 April 1752. On being made lord bishop of Bristol he let his living here to his curate, the Rev. Griffiths; and in 1758, resigned the rectory.

THOMAS GOODWIN, M.A., was inducted 17 February 1758. On his coming to reside here he married the daughter of Mrs. Holt, by her first husband, Mr. Hanslap.

GEORGE FIELDING, M.A., presented 11 November 1785. He died; and was succeeded by

KINGSMAN BASKETT, M.A., instituted 5 April 1797.

JOHN ATHAWES, M.A., instituted in July 1833. He died 21 May 1864; and was succeeded by,

ROBERT CHARLES GREEN, M.A., who was instituted in 1864.

JOHN THOMAS ATHAWES, M.A., was instituted in 1883.

All Saints Church, Loughton.

The church is an ancient structure, and stands on high ground. It comprises a nave, south aisle and porch, chancel, and lofty tower, in which is a clock, and five bells inscribed:

First: ROBERT ATTON MADE ME 1631.

Second: HEC NOVA CAMPANA MARGARETA EST NOMINATA.

Third: SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTVM.

Fourth: BARTHOLOMEWE ATTVM 1590.

The style is Perpendicular, but there are some small remains of earlier work. The windows are very good. Interiorly the roofs are pannelled, stained, and varnished to represent oak. The pulpit and pews are similarly stained and varnished. The font has attached to it an ancient canopy of wood. The nave and aisle are divided by three pointed arches, supported by octagon pillars, and the chancel arch is pointed. The aisle, which is lighted by four good mullioned windows, of four lights each, is said to have been built out of the ruins of the church of Little Loughton, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Little Loughton. Above the communion table is a painting of the two disciples at Emmaus, by Gonzales, which was presented to the church by the late Rev. John Athawes, in 1833. The east window was glazed with stained glass in 1849.



*Hic iacet Hugo parke quondam istius ecclie Rector
in artibus magister sacreque theologie barulaimis.*

On the inside of the communion rails is the upper half of the effigy of Hugh Parke, attired in clerical attire, in brass, with the inscription close to it as the above sketch illustrates. It was, without doubt, before the lower portion was lost, a very fine specimen of the antique brasses. Its remains have now been carefully inlaid in a modern slab.

In the chancel are three mural tablets, memorials of the Crane family. Three are inscribed as follows :

Venderneath was buried y^e 16th day of Feb: in y^e yeare 1672, y^e body of Robert Crane, Dr of y^e Civill Lawes, and one of y^e Senior Fellows of Trinity College, In Cambridge, sonn of John Crane. Esq., Cheife Clerke of the Green Cloth to King Charls the Second, who was alsoe buried here in the yeare of our Lord, 1660.

To the Memorie of Felice, Daughter of George Moorton of Moorton. in Com. Epat. Dvenlm., Esq., first married to Will. Mortoft, of Ittringham, in Com. Norf., Esq. By whom she had issue, Valentine and Tomasine. After, to Iohn Crane of London, Esq., to whom she bore Iohn Crane of Loughton, Esq., and Robert who died yovnge. In honovr of w^{ch} here endeared hvsbandes & tender respect of her childrens advancement she lived 38 yeares in widowhood. A lively minovr of Chastity Hvmility & Devotion, And departed this life, here at Loughton, Sept. 7^o A^o D. 1622. Ætat sve 68.

In Memory of Mary, heere vnder interred, the eldest daughter of S^r Thomas Tresham, of Newton in y^e countie, of North. K^t. who lived y^e wife of Iohn Crane of Loughton, Esq., 19 yeares and 11 dayes, in which time shee bare vnto hime eleven sonnes and five daughters of which were livinge 8 sonnes and 5 daughters y^e 15th of March 1624, w^{ch} was y^e day shee ended her life aged 37 yeares and 9 monethes.

There is a brass plate inscribed in memory of Felicia Crane, who died in 1622. Here are likewise three elegant tablets of white marble belonging to the Athawes family; and in the aisle is a mural monument of the Hanslap family.

Loughton Charities.

The "Town Land" is the bequest of the Rev. Hugh Parke, rector of this parish, who died in 1514. It now consists of about ten acres. About two acres more of this charity land has been sold to the London & North-Western Railway Company.

In 1525, John Curteys, of Loughton, willed two bushels of malt to Snelshall priory; and two bushels of malt to the brotherhood of Fenny Stratford.

William Binion, in his will, dated 5 February 1721, bequeathed and devised the house in Loughton, wherein he dwelt at making his will, to his kinsman, Richard Lewis, his heirs and assigns for ever; and a close of pasture, and an acre of meadow and arable land in Loughton, subject to the payment of £5 annually to the churchwardens and overseers of Loughton, and their successors for ever, without any deduction, to be paid into their hands, on the festival of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, next after his decease, to the putting out apprentice some poor boy, born in Loughton parish; and appointed the rector of Loughton and his successors, to be assistants to the said parish officers; and in case of non-payment, he empowered the said officers to enter upon the said farm house, and lands, and distrain for the same. He died 14 May, and was buried 19 May 1725.

WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN.

WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN parish, consisting of 1,224 acres, is bounded on the north, by Great Woolstone; on the south, by Simpson; on the east, by the river Ousel or Lovat, Milton Keynes and Walton; and on the west, by Loughton. The parish is intersected by the Grand Junction Canal and the London & North-Western Railway.

It is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Bletchley, arch deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The village is $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles south from Newport Pagnell, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Fenny Stratford.

The village is built in the form of an oblong square, and has a very neat appearance, being about a quarter of a mile long, and one furlong in breadth. The church stands about the middle of the east end of the square or green, whence this place is denominated Woughton-on-the-Green; the road from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford crosses near the west side of the churchyard; and at the western end of the green, the Grand Junction Canal. The whole parish was enclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed 16 December 1769. In the return made to the bishop of Lincoln, in 1712, here were 50 families, and 243 inhabitants; and by the census of 1814, the number had increased to 354, but it has now decreased to the number of 208.

Manorial History of Woughton-on-the-Green.

The manor is described in Domesday Book, in which it was surveyed in the Hundred of Sigelai, as partly the land of the earl of Morton, and the remainder belonging to Martine.

The land of the earl of Moreton was holden in Vichetone, by Ralph as four hides for one manor. There were four carucates of arable. In the demesne one, and another might have been cultivated. There were four villeins with six borders having one carucate, and another might have been added. There were two servants, and four carucates of pasture; altogether estimated at £3; when he first held it, at £4; and in king Edward's time, at £3. This manor eight thanes held; of whom four were men of Alric; one a man of Alric Fitz-Goding, who had one hide; another a man of Baldwin, half a hide; another a man of Morcar, half a hide; and one, a man of Scuolt, who had one virgate; who could sell their land.

Martinus held in Vichetone, five hides and a half for one manor. There were five carucates. In the demesne one and a half, and half

a carucate might have been added. There were six villeins with three borders, having three carucates. There were two carucates of pasture and four servants; altogether valued at one hundred shillings, in the time of king Edward, £6. This manor, Azor, son of Tote a thane of king Edward, and another thane belonging to him, held one hide, who could sell it.

The first of these two manors came, on the rebellion of earl Robert's son William against Henry I., to Stephen de Blois, afterwards king of England, with his earldom; and which was bestowed by Henry II., on his son John, subsequently also king of England, whom he made earl of Moreton or Mortaigne.

Both these manors belonged to the Verleys in Henry III's reign, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, the patronage of the church, in 1223, being also vested in the same family, which was commonly an appendage to manors not given in Mortmain. The Verleys held their demesnes here of the honours of Arundel a Clare. Robert de Woketon, in the year 1197, passed a fine of lands here; and in 1357, John Bottetourt and Maud, daughter of John de Grey of Rotherfield, and John Bottetourt de Verley, knight, and Joyce his wife, passed a fine of this manor and advowson to John and Maud Bottetourt. By heirs female, of the Verleys, this manor seems to have come to the Muxons, Bottetourt, and Greys; and so to have at length acquired by the Vavasours, who conveyed their demesnes here to the Mordaunts, to whom this manor belonged in 1608, when Henry Lord Mordaunt died possessed. His successor, John Mordaunt, earl of Peterborough, gave his interest herein to his kinsman, Lewis Mordaunt, who 30 May 1642, conveyed to Roger Nicoll, two parts of the advowson and manor; and in this family they continued until 1717, when Nicoll sold them to Mr. Edward Troutbeck; though a third part remained in the Longuevills, which came to that family from the Greys; and in 1732, a third part, viz, one turn in three of the advowson still belonged to them; the other two turns being conveyed by Nicoll's heir to Mr. Edward Troutbeck, of Westbury, who held a court baron here about 1740, his father having purchased the Nicoll's interest and title to the manor, and two turns of the advowson, in 1714.

Mr. Thomas Troutbeck, rector of Woughton, grandson or son to the purchaser, was possessor of this manor and advowson, March 19, 1760; and on a dispute about his title to the lordship, he had a trial at law, when it was adjudged, at Buckingham Assizes 1759, to be his right. He married Lucy, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of Mr. Hawley of Wellingborough, but had no issue. The other sister was married to Paulet St. John, Esq., son to Dr. Paulet St. John, by whom he had several children.

Mr. Nicoll held a court here in 1670.

The Church of St. Mary, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The church, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, is an ancient fabric having a chancel, nave, south aisle and porch, and an embattled west tower, containing a clock, and four bells, inscribed:

First : CHANDLER MADE ME 1653.

Second : RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME, 1717 (cracked).

Third : CHANDLER MADE ME 1701.

Fourth : PARK AND CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT, THOMAS LUCAS
CHURCHWARDEN 1771, BARNARD CHERVALL, GENTLEMAN

The second bell is cracked. Some years ago the ringers patiently filed down to the crack, hoping to restore the sound but they did not succeed.

The general style is Decorated Gothic. The porch is good with a small two-light window on each side, and a handsome cross on the top. The tower is in the Perpendicular style. The aisle and nave are divided by four pointed arches supported by clustered columns. The chancel arch is a fine pointed one. The font is plain. The pulpit is a handsomely carved oak one, and depicts Christ as the good shepherd; and the beautiful rood screen, surmounted with a large cross, with Christ crucified, is also carved oak, as well as the choir stalls, and open benches in the nave. The roofs are open timber, stained to represent oak. In the south wall of the chancel is a piscina niche with a finely carved head. The nave is lighted by two windows with good mullions; one with a transom has three large lights below, and six small ones above; the other is of three lights with tracery in the head.

The chancel is lighted by three windows, viz., one in the east end, of three compartments, with tracery in the head; and two good ones, one in both the north and south walls. The priests' door is in the south wall; also the sedilia. On the north wall of the chancel is a brass "In memory of Margaret, wife of Maurice Farrell, rector of Woughton, who died 8 October 1881; and a mural tablet to the memory of David James, Esq., and family.

Under an anchoret or arch, in the north wall of the chancel, is a recumbent figure of a man in freestone, and a dog couchant at his feet; the head rests on a pillow, and the hands are clasped in the attitude of devotion. It is to the memory of one Monelixan, or Monxton; no doubt the builder of the church, in the reign of Edward I. On the said monument is no inscription.

In the south aisle, the steps to the rood loft are visible; the entrance has a fine canopied head supported by corbals of singular design. Here too is another piscina, with the head filled with tracery, the shaft in the centre having been destroyed.

In the tower is a black marble slab to the memory of David James, a late rector, and his family; also a tablet of charitable bequests left for the benefit of the poor of Woughton-on-the-Green, and the repairs of the parish church:

No. 1. A field of land containing 13 acres 2 roods 2 poles called the Common, and six cottages near the church, left for the repairs of the parish church and benefit of the poor.

No. 2. A plot of ground whereon formerly stood a tenement, situate near the blacksmith's shop, left solely for the benefit of the poor.

No. 3. A charge upon certain lands as awarded at the enclosure, amounting to £2/3/6. Left solely for the benefit of the poor.

WILLIAM LEVI,
FREDERICK DRUCE, } Churchwardens.
May 1st 1850.

The west window is seen through the tower arch.

The porch retains the stone sediles, and there is a trefoil-headed niche in the centre.

The following communion plate was found in an old oak box, that had not been opened for time out of memory :

1. Silver flagon, 2lbs. 9oz. 6dwts., inscription, "Exdono Mary James to the parish of Woughton, Bucks, 1738, for the use of the communion there for ever."
2. Silver paten, 7oz. 4dwts., inscription. "The gift of Dr. James, rector of Woughton, Bucks, 1722."
3. Silver-gilt paten, inscription, "Miserere mei Deus Secundum Magnam Misericordiam tuam"—IH Σ in centre.
4. Silver chalice, 7oz., no inscription, evidently old.
5. Modern silver chalice, no inscription.

In the church yard, on the south side of the church, is a small antique grave stone with the following inscription :

Here lyeth y^e Body of Anne the rious Wife of John Chevall & Daughter of Mr. Roger Chapman of Newport. She departed this Life the 18th Day of January Anno Dom. 1688, In the 34th year of her age.

The register, commencing in 1556, and continuing until 1652, is in a shocking state through damp, which was through the carelessness of a late rector. From the latter date to 1692, the registers have been lost.

Rectors of Woughton-on-the-Green.

ROBERT DE HAIA, presented in 1221, by Roger de Verley.

WILLIAM DE HAIA, presented 1232.

JOHN DE BRUMPTON resigned in 1263.

WALTER DE ARDERNE. presented 2 November 1263, by the Lady Hawisia de Verley.

HENRY DE WODSTOCK presented in 1273 by the king.

WILLIAM DE THORNTOLT was the next rector, but resigned it to

THOMAS DE THORNTOLT, who was admitted 9 October 1301, on the presentation of

Sir Roger de Tyringham, knight. At his death,

THOMAS CAVE was presented 7 November 1304.

THOMAS DE ACHECOTE was presented 2 March 1346 by Walterun de Cheriton. At his decease,

ROBERT DE ASTON was presented 16 July 1349, on the presentation of John de Botetourt. He died, and

RALPH HAYWARD was presented 4 May 1386, by Thomas de Harcourt. He exchanged for Rolleston vicarage, with

WILLIAM SMITH, 2 September 1388, who was presented by John Longueville de Walton. At his death,

WILLIAM DE HULLE DE HALESOWEN was presented 16 April 1394, by Sir Hugh Burnett, knight.

WILLIAM GARTON was admitted in 1424, by the feoffees of Richard Fox, lord of Woketon, viz., John Doward, Robert Darcey, John Barton, jun., and John Gyffard, of Whaddon.

LAURENCE STAUNTON occurs rector in 1479, and came in, as is presumed, about 1453. At his death,

HENRY TURPIN was presented 16 October 1490, by John Vavasour one of the justices of the king's bench.

NICHOLAS HORT was presented 11 February 1491. He died; and

JOHN ATON was presented 26 July 1493. He was also vicar of Linslade, who resigned; and

CHRISTOPHER DOUGHTY was presented 2 October 1501.

THOMAS DOBSON was presented 11 July 1505, and

JAMES WILSON, 26 August 1511. At his decease,

JOHN RAWLINSON was presented by Arthur Longueville, 21 August 1545. He was also vicar of Wolverton.

LAURENCE THORLEY was presented 18 June 1572, by Lewis Lord Mordaunt. He resigned, and

ANTHONY GREENACRES was presented 15 April 1578.

EDWARD HUGHES, M.A., was presented 21 April 1597, by Henry Longueville, Esq., of Wolverton. He was rector of Simpson and archdeacon of Bangor.

RICHARD CROMPTON succeeded in 1633, and occurs rector in 1643. He was also curate of Tattenhoe.

SAMUEL WITHERS is said to have been presented in 1649.

RICHARD ALFIELD or ANCEL came in about 1653. At his death he was succeeded, after some controversy about the title, by

WILLIAM NICOLL, B.A., presented 28 April, and instituted 19 May 1664, on the presentation of Richard Barnewell, of Willen. He was succeeded by his son,

WILLIAM NICOLL, B.A., presented 12 December 1704, by Roger Nicoll, gent. He died in London in 1713.

DAVID JAMES, B.A., succeeded, being instituted 22 September 1713, on the presentation of William Longueville, jun., Esq., of the Inner-Temple. He died about the latter end of the year 1745, being succeeded by

THOMAS TROUTBECK, B.A., inducted 24 February 1746, on the presentation of Edward Troutbeck, vicar of Westbury. He was educated at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; and died at Wellingborough, 22 March 1782.

WILLIAM PROCTER succeeded. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1767, and resided at Wellingborough, where he was curate till 1789, when he was presented to the rectory of Stanwick, near Higham Ferrers, which he held by dispensation with this rectory till his death in 1795. He died at Stanwick, and was buried there; being succeeded by

JOHN BROOK LEWIN, M.A., of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, who died rector in 1796. He was succeeded by

RICHARD DREYER, LL.B., 1785 of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and inducted 2 December 1796, on the presentation of Thomas Troutbeck, Esq., of Penrith, in Cumberland, who had also presented the two preceding rectors. In 1799 Mr. Dreyer also became rector of Thwaite, in Norfolk. His successor in this living was another

RICHARD DREYER, who was inducted 26 February 1800, on the same presentation. He resigned; and

FRANCIS ROSE, M.A., was admitted 6 August 1823, on his own presentation. He was also rector of Little Woolstone, and was formerly curate of Bullington and of Burton Hastings, Warwickshire. He came into residence 25 March 1826. He was magistrate for Buckinghamshire, 1836, for Northants in 1840. On Friday, 22 January 1841, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos honoured the Rev. Francis Rose with his company at dinner at the rectory house of Woughton. An immense assemblage from the parishes of Great Woolstone, Little Woolstone, Walton, Milton Keynes, Simpson, Fenny Stratford, and Woughton presented an address. The church bells were rang merrily. A band of music preceded his grace and the assembled throng escorted him to the rectory, where a select party had been invited to meet him.

MAURICE FARRELL, M.A., instituted on his own presentation 1855. He resigned 28 August 1884.

FREDERICK FRANCIS FIELD, B.A., St John's College (1871), curate of St. Stephen's, South Lambeth, 1871-2; of Gilling, Richmond, Yorkshire, 1872-4; of Kirk

Deighton, Yorkshire, 1874-7; St. Mary's, Leeds, 1877-1880; lecturer in Watford Parish Church (Lady Elizabeth Russell's foundation), 1880-4. He was instituted 4 October 1884, at Cuddleston Palace, by the bishop of Oxford (J. F. Mackarness, D.D.), on the presentation of Henry Carington Bowles-Bowles, Esq., of Myddleton House, Waltham Cross; "read himself in," on Sunday 5 October, and was inducted by Archdeacon Randall at a public service on 21 October 1884; took duty for the first time 7 September 1884.

Woughton-on-the-Green Rectory.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at £16 9s. 7d., and it is now worth £120 net per annum, its approximate value being £145.

The rectory house is a good substantial building of red brick in the Domestic Gothic style, situated in well laid out grounds, about a quarter of a mile distant on the south side of the church. The site appears to have been surrounded by a moat. From the fact that the rectors, for some time, having been lords of the manor, it is probable that this is the site of the ancient manor house.

In 1868, Rev. Maurice Farrell built the new rectory. He borrowed from queen Ann's Bounty £890 advanced under Gilbert's Act. The Mortgage deed was dated 25 February 1868—rate of interest $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to be repaid in 31 years. Three years relief was granted to Mr. Farrell (1882-3-4), under Swan's Extension Act. In 1883, a sum of £300 in deduction of the debt, a condition made by Mr. Bowles when he bought the advowson. When Mr. Field succeeded to the living, the balance of the principal out-standing was £234, and his first annual payment, instalment and interest, was £20 19s. 8d.; 1886, was £20 9s. 7d.; and in 1887, £20 0s. 9d. In the last year an extension of time was granted, by which the instalment (1888) was £8 9s. 7d.; interest, less income tax, £6 12s. 6d.; total, £15 2s. 1d.

Woughton-on-the-Green XVIIth Century Trade Token.

The village of Woughton-on-the-Green, like several more in the Hundreds, had its coining apparatus and its coiner, though of illegal character. The progressive and energetic tradesman who ventured to



issue his own money, in this village, was William Coale, a grocer, and his coinage, as far as can be gathered, consisted only of brass farthings, issued between the years 1651 and 1671. It is a rare little token and was unknown to Boyne, the great authority on the tokens of the XVIIth Century, and is here described as an unpublished variety, which always adds considerably to its value in the numismatic world.

The obverse and reverse of the token is as illustrated, and the inscriptions are :

Ob. ★ WILLIAM · COALE—The Grocers' arms.

R. ★ OF ♦ WOOFTON—W. E. C.

The entries in the parish register, of this influential tradesman's family are very meagre, and cannot, with any certainty, be traced to any living person, though there are families still of the name in the immediate neighbourhood, probably descendants. William Coale was a married man, as will be noticed by the three initials upon his token. His death appears to have taken place in 1699. The entries in the register are :

1699. W^m. Coale buried y^e 30 of Aprill.

1713. Dec. 28 William the son of Will^m. Cole Bapt.

1715. May 29 Katherine the daughter of James Coale and
Katherine his wife Bapt.



SIMPSON.



SIMPSON parish and village are situated upon the road leading from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford, part of the latter town being in this parish. The area is 1,336 acres with a population of 727. It is bounded on the north, by Woughton-on-the-Green; on the east by the river Lovat or Ousel, Walton and Bow Brickhill; and on the south-west by Fenny Stratford and Bletchley. The Grand Junction Canal passes through the centre of the parish, from north to south and is crossed by four bridges.

The village is seated at the foot of a hill about one mile north from Fenny Stratford, and five miles south from Newport Pagnell. During the early part of the century it was, in appearance, one of the most wretched of many miserable villages in the county.

During a great portion of the winter time the main road through the village was impassable, without wading through water three feet deep for a distance of about two hundred yards. The road was raised three and a half feet, and some respectable houses were erected, and thus it was converted into a pleasant village of fairly good appearance.

Simpson is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Bletchley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The open fields and commons have been inclosed under two Acts of Parliament passed in 1763 and 1770.

Manorial History of Simpson.

Simpson had been part of the possessions of queen Edith to the time of Edward the Confessor, but was forfeited, with the rest of the lands of the Saxons, after the battle of Hastings; and, at the recording of the Conqueror's Survey, in Domesday Book, was held by the bishop of Constance, in Normandy, in pledge or mortgage, from William Bonuaslet; the bishop himself holding *Sevinstone*, taxed at eight hides and three virgates of land, for one manor in his demesne. There were eight carucates. In the demesne there were three hides and three carucates. Thirteen villeins, with two bordars, having five carucates. There were six servants, one mill of ten shillings rent, and eight carucates of pasture. It was altogether valued, and had been constantly, at six pounds; when he first held it, at twenty shillings; and in the time of Edward, at eight pounds. This manor, queen Edith held, and could sell it.

Another portion here was holden by Leuinas Onura, of the king, as one hide and one virgate. There was one carucate, with two villeins, two borders, and one carucate of pasture. It had been and was then

valued at ten shillings. The same man held it in the time of Edward, and could sell it.

As early as the reign of Henry I., it was holden by Manfelin, baron of Wolverton, as part of his barony; but no traces remain of the manner in which he acquired this estate; for it is a mere and erroneous conjecture of Browne Willis, that it was taken from its original possessor and given to Walter Giffard, earl of Buckingham, and subsequently passed with that inheritance. However, it seems to have been considered part of the barony of Wolverton as long as the lords of that seignory retained their honours, and so continued until the abolition of feudal services.

The earliest feudatory tenent discovered of this manor is Geoffrey de Cawz, who held it in the reign of John, to the beginning of that of Henry III. His family or himself had been the founders of the church here, for he presented his clerk to it, in 1232.

From this family it passed to Sir John de Grey, perhaps at the same time, and in the same manner, as Water Eaton, but this is almost conjectural. John de Grey continued to hold it till his death, at the latter end of the reign of Henry III.

Reginald de Grey, his son, succeeded his father in the possession of this manor, and also died possessed in 1307.

John, his son and heir was forty years old when he succeeded to his father's inheritance, and was baron Grey of Shirland, Wilton, and Ruthyn; the castle of Ruthyn, with the cantred of the district of Driffyncloyd, having been given to his father. This John de Grey, in order to provide for the issue of a second marriage, which he had contracted with Matilda, or Maud, daughter of lord Basset of Drayton, passed a fine of this, and several other manors in the vicinity, that he might settle them upon the issue of that marriage; and he died possessed of Simpson in 1323; and in the descendants of lord Grey it continued, after they became earls of Kent, until, in 1515, Richard Lord Grey conveyed it to the family of Pigott; who held large estates both in this place and the neighbourhood, being possessed of that property which was inherited by Mr. Sergeant Pigott, of Whaddon, from his maternal ancestry, the Giffards, keepers of the park and chase. He probably descended from the same parent stock as the Giffards, earls of Buckingham, but must not be mistaken for the descendants of the Giffards who participated in the lands which, after the failure of male-issue of the second earl of Buckingham, were distributed in the reign of Richard I.; these Giffards originated in that branch of the family which, after the battle of Blore Heath, was transplanted into this county, and acquired, inter alia, the principal estates of Snelshall priory with other lands about Whaddon and Nash, &c.

Thomas Pigott, of Whaddon, sergeant-at-law, having in 1510, purchased the manor and advowson of the last of the earls of Kent, seems to have added to those other possessions here which he had acquired by maternal inheritance from the Giffards.

It appears that this estate had subsequently passed into other hands; for, in 1686, it was conveyed by Thomas Hatch, to John Walden, of

the family of Walden of Coventry; but the purchaser dying within twelve months afterwards, his brother, Thomas Walden, succeeded him. He died in London, 3 March 1701; when this manor came to his sole daughter and heir, Susan Walden, who carried it in marriage in 1717, to Job Hanmer, of Lincoln's Inn, barrister-at-law, younger brother of the family of that name, of Hanmer, in Flint; and who died in London in March 1739, possessed of this estate, and was buried at Simpson; leaving issue, one son, and a daughter, Susan.

Job Walden Hanmer, whom Mr. Cole mentions as his senior fellow at Eton, was removed thence to Oxford, and the inns of court; practised as a counsellor in Buckinghamshire; and resided at Broughton. His mother lived in the manor house in Simpson. He left by his wife, who was daughter and co-heir of Henry Vere Graham, of Holbrook Hall, in Suffolk, a numerous family.

The Advowson of Simpson

Appears to have been always appendant to the manor, until about 1600, when Thomas Pigott, sergeant-at-law, of Whaddon Hall, who possessed both the ecclesiastical and temporal estates, conveyed them by certain feoffees, a short time before his death, to George Bury, who sold the same to Thomas Cranwell, in 1604; but he being outlawed, his exercise of patronage was opposed, and the advowson sold to Robert Stanton. In 1662, it was purchased by William Cotton, who in 1690, transferred his right to John Stannard, at that time the incumbent; whose son, in 1712, sold it to Mrs. Eleanor Hawse; from whom it was conveyed, by purchase, to the Rev. Cleobury; and, after having passed through the hands of other purchasers, it was transferred, in 1761, by the Rev. John Cranwell, curate of Fen Stanton, in Hunts, to Walden Hanmer, in whose family and descendants the advowson and patronage still remain.

In 1534, the valor of the rectory was returned at £17/6/8; the payment, in 1712, to the land tax, £141/5/-; and in 1741, £150/14/-; the rectory and glebe being £130 per annum. The present value of the rectory, is £304.

The early registers of the church are lost; the present ones date back to 1718.

Rectors of Simpson.

PHILIP DE LEMINGTON, presented 1231, by Galfred de Cawz.

JOHN next held the living, but died rector 1274; and was succeeded by WALTER DE DEBENHAM, presented 4 August 1274, by Sir Reginald de Grey.

RALPH DE MORDEN died in 1291; and was succeeded by

HUGH DE LA LEVE, presented April 1291, by Sir John de Grey.

ROGER DE NEWPORT was presented 18 October 1296.

JOHN AMORY presented 13 May 1308. He resigned; and

JAMES HUYT DE MERTON was presented 4 May 1309.

HUGH DE DALBY was presented 10 January 1311;

ROBERT DE DENEFORD, 11 April 1319; and

ROBERT DE KELLEBY 1 October 1340. He quitted this living for Hemingby; and WILLIAM DE ATTERTON was presented 7 July 1355, by the lord Roger de Grey.

WILLIAM GILDESBURGH exchanged for St. Olave's rectory near the Tower of London, with

- HUGH DE WOKETON, 26 December 1374,
 EDMUND CALDECOT exchanged for Bayfleet, Surrey, with
 THOMAS BESOUTH, 24 September 1383, who was presented by the lord Reginald de Grey. At his decease,
 RICHARD WASTIE was presented by the lord Roger de Grey, 16 October 1410. He exchanged for the mastership of Sapcote Chantry, with
 JOHN SHEPPY, 28 June 1418; who exchanged for Sawbridgeworth, in Herts, with
 JOHN ELYS, 5 July 1419. At his death,
 THOMAS HAWKINS, alias MORYNG, was presented 21 April 1458, by Edmund Lord Grey de Hastings.
 JOHN RAMYS was presented 27 August 1464, by Edmund Earl of Kent.
 LAWRENCE STAUNTON was presented 24 October 1488. He died 1492, being also rector of Woughton,
 RICHARD GREY succeeded 1492; and resigned 1501.
 THOMAS DAVYS, LL.B. was presented by George Earl of Kent, 21 February 1501. He died 1528.
 JOHN DICONSON, B.A., was presented 28 May 1528, by the feoffees of Thomas Pigott, who had bought the manor and advowson, about 1510, of the Earl of Kent.
 HENRY WOODSELL, instituted 14 February 1530, on the same presentation. At his death,
 WILLIAM ANYON was presented 24 February 1545, by Eliz. Pigott, widow. In 1552, he married, and was deprived on that account, about two years afterwards; when
 RICHARD SAMPOLE was presented 26 July 1554, by Thomas Pigott, Esq. He was buried here 21 June 1563.
 THOMAS TAVERNER was presented in 1563.
 WILLIAM STONE, M.A., was presented 13 November 1588. He quitted it for Wavendon; and, on his resignation,
 RICHARD THOMPSON was presented 9 October 1591, by George Bury, gent. At his decease,
 ROBERT LINGARD, M.A., was presented 17 July 1596. He occurs rector 1599, and was deprived for simony.
 HUMPHREY CLARKE was presented 30 October 1601, by the queen. He quitted it the next year, being also rector of Great Woolstone.
 RALPH BRADLEY, M.A., was inducted in 1602.
 EDWARD HUGHES, B.D., was presented 4 June 1607, by Thomas Cranwell, gent. He was likewise rector of Loughton, and archdeacon of Bangor.
 JOHN NOBLE was presented 14 October 1633.
 WILLIAM DUDLEY, M.A., rector of Broughton, was presented 2 November 1634, by the king's title, on the outlawry of Thomas Cranwell, Esq., the patron, but was forced to quit; and
 JOHN MAYDWELL, M.A., was inducted 19 December 1636, on the presentation of Robert Stanton, Esq. He resigned it, having been presented to Claybrook rectory, in Leicester; but came back to Simpson, where he was silenced by the Bartholomew Act; and, being a presbyterian, preached in a conventicle at Kettering, and died there 9 January 1692, aged 84, being much entertained by Sir Thomas Alston, bart., of Odell castle, and his lady. On being deprived of this living,
 GEORGE POTTER, M.A., succeeded in 1651, and, 29 June 1661, got the patron's title. He was rector of Chenies in 1665; died in 1667, and was buried there. On his resignation of this rectory,
 WILLIAM PIERCE, or PEARSE, M.A., was presented 8 August 1667, by William Cotton, Esq. He died next year; and
 JOHN STANNARD, M.A., was presented 15 January 1668. He had been curate to Mr. Potter, and died rector here in 1719, being succeeded by,
 MATTHEW HAWES, M.A., instituted 8 July 1719, on the presentation of Thomas Barrowbee, Esq. He died; and
 CHRISTOPHER DRAKE was inducted 29 August 1761, on the presentation of Walden Hanmer, Esq. He was found drowned in May 1762, in (as was reported) a fit

of derangement, in the river near Grafton.

DIXON REDDALE, M.A., of St. John's College Cambridge was presented by the same patron, and inducted 12 August 1762. Cole says "He was a very worthy, good-tempered man." At his death,

SAMUEL HARE, LL.B., was presented by Sir Walden Hanmer, bart., and inducted 13 April 1772. He was also rector of Beachampton. He was succeeded by

GRAHAM HANMER, who was presented by his father, Sir Walden, bart. He was also rector of St. Bartholomew, London, and vicar of Hanmer in Flintshire; all of which he held till his death; being succeeded by his son,

THOMAS WALDEN HANMER, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxon, presented 10 October 1807, pursuant to the directions of the will of Sir Walden Hanmer, bart., and was instituted in 1808. He was succeeded by

THOMAS WALDEN HANMER, known as "Tally-ho" Hanmer. At his death, GEORGE SHELFORD BIDWELL, B.A., of St. John's college, Cambridge, was instituted in 1871. He was succeeded by,

W. RICE, who was instituted in 1891.

The Church of St. Thomas, Simpson.

This fabric is a plain structure situate in the eastern part of the village. Its ground plan forms a cross, but the transepts are walled off and partitioned from the nave. The north transept was used as the parish school, prior to the establishment of the school board; the south transept as a vestry. The transepts are each lighted by a three-light window in the end. In the south wall of the north transept, is a trefoil-headed piscina, thus showing it to have been a chantry chapel. There are probably other piscinas, and may be, sedilia and ambry under the vast coating of unsightly plaster.

The general style of the building is Decorated, with good two and three-light windows. At the west end is a square-headed window of four lights. The tower is in the centre and is supported on four arches. It is in the Perpendicular style, embattled, and contains five bells, inscribed:—

First: CHANDLER MADE ME, 1650. (The figure 5 is retrograde).

Second: RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME, 1694.

Third: GOD SAVE KING IAMES AMEN, 1604.

Fourth: GOD SAVE OVR KING, 1630.

Sanctus:

The nave is spacious, but it has no aisles. There is a porch on the south side. The nave has a plaster ceiling, the chancel open wood. The pulpit and font are plain, and the pews are high-backed. The east window is of three lights. On the north wall of the nave are two mural tablets to members of the Gent family. There are two achievements of the Hanmer family, one on the north, and one on the south wall of the nave. The west window of the nave is of four large lights below a transom, and eight small ones above, the latter being built up.

The chancel contains four mural monuments to the family of Hanmer. One is by Bacon, and exhibits a medallion portrait of Justice, and is to the memory of "Sir Walden Hanmer, baronet, of Hanmer and Bettisfield Park, in the county of Flint; lord of the manor, the only son of Job Hanmer of this place, by Susannah, daughter of Thomas Walden,

Esq." Sir Walden died in 1783, aged 64 years. The priests' door on the north side of the chancel, and a large square-headed window on the south side have been built up.

Simpson Charity.

Thomas Pigott, Esq., of Doddershall, by indenture dated in 1573, gave certain lands, &c., now producing an annual rental of about £70 to the poor of Simpson. The money is given to the poor parishioners in clothes, coals, and money. There are several cottages too (part of the property of the charity) which are let rent free to poor industrious and deserving families. The land consists of a farm house with about fifty acres of land, in the parish of Simpson, except one acre three roods, which is in Woughton. The land is subject to a land tax of £4 2s. per annum, and £1 yearly is paid for insurance.



WALTON.

THE parish of Walton contains 773 acres, and has a population of 93. There are two good farm houses and a few neat cottages besides the hall, and the rectory. The parish is bounded on the north, by Milton Keynes; on the south by Bow Brickhill; on the east, by Wavendon; and on the west, by the river Lovat or Ousel, and Simpson. The place is famous for the growth of walnut trees of which there are hundreds in a very flourishing condition.

Walton is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Bletchley, arch deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford. It is two miles north from Fenny Stratford, and five south from Newport Pagnell.

Willis supposes it to have been originally part of Bow Brickhill, perhaps partly of Milton Keynes; and that it received its name from its being walled or fenced about, on the erection of the church, in the time of Henry II., in 1189, when Sir Hugh was bishop of Lincoln, grounding this suggestion upon inference, that here were two moieties of a rectory, manor, and advowson, holden by two different families, by whose respective heirs or representatives they were shared during many ages.

Manorial History of Walton.

Walton not being mentioned by name in Domesday book, the best authenticated account of its principal manor, which Willis assigns to Walter Giffard, seems to be, on the authority of the Testa de Nevil, in the reign of Henry III., that it was holden of the Earl Marshall of the honour of Giffard, whose barony, as one of Walter Giffard's heirs, was at Crendon Marshall. On the partition of the inheritance of the Giffards, at the beginning of the reign of Richard I., it may be inferred, that it was shared by the families of Grey and Longueville; for in 1353, John de Grey was, by inquisition, found to have died possessed of Water Hall, in the parish of Bletchley, a market in Fenny Stratford, Simpson manor and advowson, and the manors of Woughton and Walton; the notice of a fine of a messuage at Walton juxta Wavendon, in 1327, being only conjectured to have been part of the ancient inheritance of the Bolebecs, which formed the ground of that paramourcy claimed over this estate by the lords of Wavendon, in right of that ancient inheritance.

In the Escheat Rolls are found numerous entries respecting the possession of lands in Walton, of which the following are the principal:

In 1258, Lucas de Keynes held the manor of Walton. In 1353, Roger de Grey, of Ruthyn, held a moiety of the manor of Walton. In

1388, Reginald de Grey, of Ruthyn, held a moiety of Walton manor and advowson. In 1389, John Stoner held the manor of Walton. In 1391, a fine was levied by John Longueville, and Joane his wife, of a moiety of Walton manor and advowson. In 1457, George Longueville held the manors of Walton, Woughton, and Wolverton. In 1458, Richard Longueville held the manor of Walton; and in 1460, he died possessed of the same.

In 1598, the queen, reciting letters patent, dated 1583, to Robert Kent the father, and Thomas and Richard Kent, his sons, granting certain lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, commons, etc., fisheries, and other commodities, etc., in Walton and Bow Brickhill, formerly in the occupation of Richard Ruge, afterwards, of Richard Charnock, and then of Robert Kent, formerly parcel of the possessions of the Fraternity of St. Margaret and St. Catherine, founded in the town of Fenny Stratford, to the said Kents, for their lives, at sixty-three shillings per annum, and after the decease of each in possession, a herriot of the best beast; the queen, for certain considerations, granted to Henry Best and Robert Holland, the said premises in Walton, at the same rent, to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever, as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, in fee and common soccage, and not in capite.

In 1601, the queen, in consideration of good services done by John Traherne and Robert Fenne, and £100 fine, having granted to Robert Morgan and Thomas Bradford, inter alia, all that messuage or tenement in Walton, in the occupation of William Edwin, cum pert., and formerly occupied by William White; and all those lands and meadows, called Pelleys, in the possession of the earl of Kent, parcel of the manor of Brockborough, and annexed to the honour of Amptill, demised the same to John Bechynnove, alias Prymer, Joane his wife, and Richard his son, by patent under the Exchequer seal, 15 March 1581, for three lives successively, at seventy-nine shillings and tenpence, habend, after the death of the aforesaid grantees, for forty-one years, at the same rent.

James I., by patent, 1624, granted to prince Charles, inter alia, the rents of farms of whatever kind they may be, happening or coming from Wokington (Woughton), Walton, Wavendon, and Bow Brickhill, parcel of the lordship of Brockborough, formerly the lands of the earl of Kent, and rents of assize in Soulbury and Wing, and the manor of Newport Pagnell, heretofore assigned to queen Elizabeth, and afterwards to queen Anne, habend., to the said prince Charles, his heirs and assigns for ever.

In 1629, Charles I., after reciting the demise of the above lands, granted the same in fee to the lord mayor and citizens of London, who had lent money to the kings James and Charles, for ninety-nine years, being parcel of the manor of Brockborough, and holden of the honour of Amptill.

Ecclesiastical History of Walton.

Here were originally two manors and two medieties of the church,

divided between two rectors or incumbents, who had their different patrons, till it was agreed that there should be only one rector, and that the different patrons should present alternately.

The first manor was, about 1200, in the hands of Rixband; for, in 1230, William Rixband presented a clerk to his mediety or portion here. His successor in this manor and patronage was Hugh Rixband, whose daughter and heir, Margaret, was divorced from her husband about 1291. His name seems to have been Nicholas Hemington; after whose death, she is presumed to have been married to Roger Braylesford, and was living in 1313. Her successor in this manor and advowson was Nicholas Hunte, of Fenny Stratford, father of John Hunte; whose daughter Joane, became wife to John Longueville of Wolverton, in the year 1377, brought this estate into that family; and John Longueville presented to this church in the year 1397. In the family of Longueville this manor and advowson continued till between 1570 and 1578, when the Longuevilles sold their interest therein to Robert Charnock, who, after a short possession thereof, conveyed it back again to Henry Longueville about 1590; whose son sold the same, after about thirty-five years' possession, to Bartholomew Beale, whose grand-son, Bartholomew Beale, about 1695, conveyed it to Richard Gilpin, possessor of several lands here, and owner of the principal house situated on the green, in the middle part of the village. Gilpin sold both his own lands and house, together with the manor house which he had lately purchased of Bartholomew Beale, to Sir Thomas Pinfold, knight, LL.D., chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough, in 1697, who, dying after about three years' possession, was buried in the church here, and succeeded in this manor by his eldest son and heir, Charles Pinfold, LL.D., many years governor of Barbadoes.

The alternate turn of the advowson having been alienated from the manor, it was sold, as is presumed, by Mr. Gilpin to Sir Thomas Pinfold, who made the purchase for the Rev. John Harrison, and assigned it to him.

After Sir Thomas Pinfold's purchase the greater part of the manor house, which stood on the north-west side of the church, next to the church yard, was pulled down, and Mr. Gilpin's house on the Green fitted up, and made the seat or dwelling house of the Pinfolds. In 1830, Charles Pinfold, rebuilt the mansion on the north-east of the church, which is a very neat and elegant structure.

The other or second manor and mediety of the advowson, belonged, about 1220, to Limband, in the reign of Henry III., at which time, also, Lucas de Keynes, lord of Milton Keynes, held lands in this parish. Afterwards, in 1302, it belonged to the Greys, lords of the neighbouring parishes of Bletchley and Simpson; and both the manor and advowson of this mediety continued in that family until Henry VIII's time, when, about the year 1520, Richard Grey, earl of Kent, having spent his estate by gambling, etc., and leasing out his demesnes, as before described, this manor and advowson, together with the manor of Brockborough, escheated to the crown, and was, in 1627, granted by the king, to William Williams and others, citizens of London, whose

interest therein being purchased by Bartholomew Beale, both manors were blended and united together, without any formal episcopal consolidation; although the alternate patronage remained in the crown, to which it escheated with the earl of Kent's estate, and was subsequently so presented to, after the reign of Henry VIII. This Richard Grey, earl of Kent, died at the sign of the George, in Lombard Street, London, in 1524.

Rectors of Walton—First Mediety.

RICHARD BRAI, presented by William Rixband to a mediety of the church of Walton 1230. At his death

REGINALD DE BERMINGTON was presented 1262, by Richard de Hemington, by reason of the custody of the lands of Margery, daughter and heir of Augustus Rixband.

JOHN DE HOUGHTON was presented in 1269.

ROBERT DE ELY was presented 2 June 1291, by Richard de Hemington, and Richard de Kerneyl, clerk, on the one part, and Margaret Rixband, *divotio inter ipsam et Nicholaum celebrato*. He resigned; and

ROBERT DE MENDHAM was admitted 9 July 1292, on the presentation of Roger Brailsford and Margaret Rixbrand.

RALPH DE HATLEY, or HATLEIGH, admitted 13 October 1304, on the resignation of Robert de Ely, and presented by Roger Brailsford and Margaret Rixbrand.

HENRY HUNTE was presented 2 September 1348, by Nicholas Hunte of Fenny Stratford, Agnes his wife, and William, son of the said Nicholas; and at his decease,

THOMAS CREWE DE WOTTON was admitted 17 October 1361, on the presentation of William le Hunte of Fenny Stratford. On his death,

RICHARD BAYLIFFE was presented 14 August 1397, by John Longueville. He died; and

JOHN HAY was presented 29 May 1414, by the same patron. At his decease,

JOHN BIGGLESWADE was presented 5 November 1415. He died; and

JOHN FROST was presented 17 March 1434.

EDMUND CARTER resigned 1470; and was succeeded by

JOHN SHERIFF, 18 January 1470.

Second Mediety.

ROGER DE BRAI, presented 1225, by Godfrey de Limband, to the mediety of the church of Walton.

SIMON DE DORNEY was presented 16 May 1266, by the bishop. He resigned; and

ROBERT DE WALMISFORD was presented 13 July 1268, by the bishop, on lapse.

WILLIAM DE CHILTERHAM was presented 9 January 1278, on the presentation of Peter de Cowdrey, by reason of the custody of the lands of Hugo de Braben.

WALTER, died 1307.

THOMAS DE PITESSE was presented 2 December 1307, by Sir John Grey, knight. At his death,

JOHN TILTON was presented 2 June 1328, by Sir Roger de Grey, knight. He died; and

THOMAS DE SUTHAM was presented 4 December 1333.

RICHARD DE WALTON was presented 1 April 1345. He died; and

JOHN DE MERTON was presented 7 December 1353, by Reginald lord Grey. He resigned; and

JOHN GARDENER was presented 12 December 1358.

JOHN RELY resigned 1371; and was succeeded by

JOHN AUBYN, who was presented 21 December 1371. He resigned; and

ADAM SEIR was presented 20 December 1381; and on his cession,

ROBERT LAZY was presented 25 October 1382. He exchanged for Stoke Goldington, with

JOHN AUBYN, 20 December 1386; who resigned it to

ROBERT ERNYS, 18 January 1396.

JOHN POLE was presented 15 October 1416. He resigned.

JOHN WILKIN succeeded 3 June 1420.

WILLIAM DALTON succeeded. At his death,

JOHN NORTH was presented 16 July 1460, by Edmund Grey, lord Hastings. At his death,

EMANUEL CARTER was presented 2 June 1469, by Edmund Grey, earl of Kent. He resigned next year to

JOHN SHERIFF, who was presented 18 June 1470, by John lord Dudley, guardian, as supposed, in Longueville's minority, and held both mediocreties to the time of his death, when he was succeeded by

RICHARD WALBANK, who was presented 11 April 1477, by Edmund Grey earl of Kent. He quitted it for Shenley, when

STEPHEN HOBSON was presented 6 October 1485, by John Longueville. He died, and

JOHN HOGESON was presented 17 June 1500, by George Grey earl of Kent. At his death

ROBERT WATTS succeeded; but he yielded it up again immediately on a dispute, to

JOHN BOLD, who was presented 12 July 1509, on the presentation of Sir John Longueville. He died; and

JOHN TRUMAN was collated 4 September 1512, by the bishop. He was deprived by reason of simony; and

JOHN ACRES was presented by Henry Acres, by virtue of a grant from John Longueville, and instituted 24 September 1527.

ROBERT BLACKBURN succeeded, and occurs rector in 1534. At his death,

RICHARD BELL was presented 6 June 1546, by Arthur Longueville.

JOHN SANDERTON was presented 6 June 1554, by the queen.

SIMON MARET was presented 4 July 1567, by John Ball, and Elizabeth his wife, by a grant from Richard Longueville.

JOHN JONES succeeded 1572. At his death,

JOHN IBBETSON, M.A., was presented 25 August 1596, by the queen. He quitted for Grafton, in Northamptonshire.

ANTHONY GREENACRES was presented 14 October 1597, by William Harris of Northmere, Oxfordshire, pro hac vice, patron. He was buried at Woughton, 10 January 1598, where he was also rector.

WILLIAM PIX, M.A., was presented 30 May 1598, by the queen. He was buried here 6 April 1642.

WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.A., was presented by Henry Trowick, of London, and inducted 14 April 1642. He was succeeded by

THEODORE BEALE in 1643, who paid First Fruits in 1646; and was succeeded by HUGH CHIBNALE in 1653. He was buried here 16 March 1686.

MAURICE GLANVILLE, M.A., was presented 20 April 1687, by Bartholomew Beale, of London. He was also rector of Wimbish near Saffron Waldon.

WILLIAM SAWLE was presented 3 March 1695, by the crown, and inducted 30 March. He resigned it to his son-in-law,

WILLIAM WALLER, M.A., who was presented 23 June 1711, by John Waller, an attorney, of Newport Pagnell. He died 18 February 1750, aged 80 years, and was buried 25 February, in the church yard, under the east window of the chancel. He was succeeded by

EDWARD DICEY, M.A., who was presented 20 March 1751, by Lord Chancellor Hardwick.

WILLIAM ELLIS, M.A., was inducted 19 July 1790. He died in 1821, and was buried at Molesworth, in Huntingdonshire; and was succeeded by his son,

VALENTINE ELLIS, who was inducted 17 November 1821, on the presentation of the king.

GEORGE WINGATE PEARCE, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was instituted in 1851. At his death, he was succeeded by

ALGERNON TOLLEMACHE, who was presented in 1900.

St. Michael's Church, Walton.

The parish church, situated in low ground, is an old building, comprising a west tower, nave, chancel, and south porch. The general style is Decorated, but the tower is Perpendicular. The nave is leaded, the chancel and porch are tiled. The windows, of two and three lights, are good. There is a low side window west of the priests' door in the chancel. The tower has massive buttresses at the angles, and contains two bells, inscribed :

First : ANTHONY CHANDLER. PRAISE THE LORD 1679.

Second : CHANDLER MADE ME 1709.

There is a tradition that one of the bells was thrown into the river during the early part of the Eighteenth century.

The roof of the nave is the original one of oak, and very good ; the chancel roof is ceiled with plaster. The chancel arch is pointed. The sedilia and piscina are in the south wall of the chancel. The font is modern.

On the north wall, within the rails, is a brass plate, about twelve inches wide by eighteen long, let into the wall, with this inscription :

ELIZABETHA VALE MEA LVX, MEA VITA, QVOVS'
 IYNGIMVR IN CÆLIS, FELIA CHARA VALE.
 IN VVLTV VIRTVS, TENERISQ' RESPLENDVIT ANNIS
 INNOCVÆ VITÆ CVM PROBITATE FIDES.
 EHEV TAM CITO QVOD RESECABAT STAMINA, NOLLET
 ATROPOS, AC VITÆ PARCERE PARCA TVÆ.

ELIZABETH THE DAUGHTER DEARE,
 OF WILLIAM PYXE HEERE LIES INTER'D
 O THAT HER DEATH FOR MANIE A YEARE
 ALLMIGHTIE GOD WOULD HAVE DEFER'D
 HER MOTHERS HOPE, HER FATHERS IOYE
 AND EKE HER FRIENDS DELIGHT WAS SHEE
 SHEE WAS MOST KINDE, COVRTVOVS, NOT COYE,
 A MEEKER SOVLE THERE COVLDE NOT BEE.
 A MODEST HVE, A LOVELY GRACE,
 APPEARED IN HER BEAVTEOVS FACE.

BVT NOWE ALAS HER LIFE BEHOLDE,
 IN TENDER BUDDE IS FALNE AWAYE,
 HER COMELY CORPS SENCELESSE AND COLDE,
 INTOMBED IS IN EARTHIE CLAYE.
 HER SOVLE WITH CHRIST WHICH DID HER SAVE
 ENIOYES NO DOVBT CELESTIALL IOYES,
 SATAN NO POWER OVER HER CAN HAVE,
 SHEE IS PRESERVED FROM HELS ANNOYES.
 DEARE BESSE ADIEV, ADIEV I SAY,
 VNTILL WE MEETE IN HEAVEN FOR AYE.

*Shee departed this life the 4th
 of January 1617 & the 11th
 yeare of her Age.*

This is under the bottom of the window. Near it, on the same wall is a handsome mural monument, with two grey marble Corinthian pillars and between are marble busts of a man and his wife, and these arms; the colours being decayed: S. on a chevron between three griffin's head, erased, Or. three mullets of the field. Crest: A horse's head erased, Or.

On a tablet of grey marble, below the busts:

D. O. M. S.

Neare this Place, in hope of a Blessed Resurrection, ly buried the Bodys of Bartholomew Beale Esq. & Katherin his only Wife at once the happy Uniter & Restorers of two antient but almost extinct Familys, who till then were different Houses, though bearing the same name. They enjoyed each in Wedlock XLVI. yeares III. moneths; Happy longer than others use to live. The religious Parents of VIJ. Sonnes & IJ. Daughters. By their Death may be seen the Triumphs of the Grave, as those of Piety and Virtue were by their lives. Hee died at London XV. of Iune MDCLX. aged LXXVIJ. yeares. Shee at Walton XVJ. of August MDCLVIJ. aged LXVIJ. yeares. Henry Beale & Charles Beale, the eldest & youngest sonnes of them who survive, to the pious & beloved Memory of their Honoured Parents, Erected this monument.

On the south wall of the nave there is a memorial by Nollekens, with a medallion portrait of

SIR THOMAS PINFOLD, KNT., LL.D.,

King's advocate, Chancellor of Peterborough, Commissary of St. Pauls, Official of London. In his Profession, Learned & Eminent. In the Practice of every Moral, & Religious Duty, Punctual & Sincere. He married Elizabeth, Daughter of Ralph Suckley. Her remains, with those of Elizabeth, mother of Sir Thomas, are here interred. He died April 30, 1701, aged 63. He left two sons, Charles, LL.D., & William, Lt. Col. of Foot.

In the north wall of the nave are two memorial tablets to the memory of members of the Pinfold family.

The south wall of the nave still retains the ancient trefoil-headed piscina and a fragment of the holy water stoup.

The Register begins in 1598, and there seems to have been no older volume. William Pix, rector, who began it, wrote the following satirical lines on one of his predecessors, John Jones, and placed them conspicuously on the title page of the volume:

Nec populum docuit, nec jungera culta reliquit
Glebæ, nec tali nomina scripta Libro
Camber: at Incumbens Ulmos Malosq' rescindens
Ædes fatalem diruit ante diem.

The Hoare Family.

The family of Hoare was derived from an ancient stock reputed to have been settled at Rishford, in the parish of Chagford, in Devonshire, as early as the reign of Henry II.; and Richard Hoare, their descendant, in the time of Edward II., held lands under Beauchief Abbey; but it was not until about the beginning of the last century, that a branch

of this family, immediately derived from William Hoare and Catherine Nott, of Lapford, in the county of Devon, laid the foundation of those honours and distinctions to which they speedily attained. In a well authenticated pedigree, in which it appears that they bore for their arms. S. an eagle displayed with two necks, within a bordure engrailed Arg. (through ten descents), Henry, the fifth of six sons of William Hoare, in 1601, migrating into this county, settled at Walton, where he married, and possessed property at the time of his decease, in 1654; and a son of his own name, removing into the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, became a citizen of London, and there commenced his career as goldsmith and banker; the latter of which the family still continue, with increasing repute for their integrity and wealth. This Henry Hoare, from whom the family soon emerged from obscurity, was the father of Richard Hoare, who married Susanna, daughter of John Austen, of Brittons, in Essex; and progressively advancing in wealth and reputation, passed through the regular gradations of civic officers. In 1710 and 1713, he was chosen one of the representatives in Parliament for the city of London. And, in the last mentioned year, attained its highest distinction, that of being also the lord mayor. He died in 1718, at the age of seventy years; having had issue by the above mentioned Susanna his wife, eleven sons and six daughters; of whom, four sons and two daughters he left surviving at his decease. He was buried at St. Dunstan's in the West, Fleet Street.

Walton Charity.

About ten acres of land here, which belong to the parish, for charitable purposes, have been left by an unknown doner. One and a half acres of land in the adjoining parish of Milton Keynes belong to the parish church of Walton.



WAVENDON.

WAVENDON is situated near the important road, which enters this parish in Woburn, in Bedfordshire; and passing through the parishes of Milton Keynes, Broughton, Newport Pagnell, Sherington and Emberton, quits this county at its extreme northern border, in the hamlet of Warrington, in Olney.

The parish is bounded on the north and east, by Bedfordshire; and on the west, by Milton Keynes, Walton, and Bow Brickhill. It is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, rural deanery of Bletchley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford. The area of the parish is 773 acres, and the population 93.

The Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists have each a place of worship here. The former built in 1878, and the latter in 1870. At Woburn Sands is a Friends' meeting house, a neat but plain building erected in 1673. According to Lipscomb, one of the earliest congregations of Quakers in England, seems to have assembled in this locality. He says, "At Hogsty End, in this parish is a meeting house for the people called Quakers, which appears to have been one of the earliest congregations of this description in England. The society of Friends seems to have been established here, long before a purchase was effected of the site of the present meeting house, which was accomplished in 1673, the names of the contributors to the building being inserted in the register, which is dated 1665; and described as 'A register of marriages, births, and burials, at Hogsty End, in the parish of Wavendon.' This book is kept with the greatest neatness and accuracy."

The hamlet of Woburn Sands, formerly called Hogsty End, lies about a mile and a half south from the village of Wavendon. The place is beautifully situated in one of the most picturesque and romantic looking portions of the Hundreds of Newport Pagnell. The north-western portion of the township of Woburn Sands is entirely in the county of Bucks. It is fast becoming recognised as one of the inland health resorts, owing to its extremely dry atmosphere and beautiful pine woods, with their delightful walks. Not only for those in search of health-giving places, but for the pleasure seekers too, this portion of North Bucks has boundless charms. From early Spring, to the end of Autumn, the influx of holiday makers is great, and increases yearly. The residences are of the up-to-date style, and lend an enchantment to the scenery, not found elsewhere in the county.

The soil is a ferruginous sand, and in the valleys, is based upon argillaceous earth; beneath which are found an abundant supply of the

richest and purest Fuller's Earth in the kingdom, rivalling, if not exceeding, the celebrated pits near Reigate, in Surrey.

The Fuller's Earth Pits are presumed to have been situated on the Bolebec Estate, which is described on the south-eastern part of the parish, Hogsty End, and beneath one of the most abrupt of the sand hills, which in this vicinage afford, by their wild and romantic appearance, a remarkable contrast to the fertility of the cultivated fields and verdant meadows at their foot. Of the period when they were discovered, no information has been obtained. The earliest account which seems to have been preserved, is in a Patent, in 1539, demising the clay pits to John Sheppard; and how long they had been previously digged, is unknown. They were, however, originally worked, by removing from the surface the supercumbent stratum of sand; but, in modern days, they have been subjected to the usual operation of miners, by driving a shaft into the hill, which, first, by a descent of about 36 feet, is approached perpendicularly, and then descending obliquely, to about 150 feet below the crown of the insulated hill, through red sand, strongly impregnated with iron, the Fuller's earth is found in a layer of about four feet, having beneath it a thin stratum of four or five inches of clayey marl, and under it a purer stratum of Fuller's Earth, from five to six feet thick, with a small declination towards the south east. This rests on a bed of sand, having slight indulations of surface distinctly marked on the inferior layer of clay.

By order of the high court of justice, these noted Fuller's earth works were offered for sale on 18 September 1900, after which they were demolished.

A Roman amphora, as is reported, was found in a sand pit on Wavendon Heath, in 1769; but all enquiries have failed to discover into whose hands it came, or any exact description of it.

Manorial History of Wavendon.

In conformity with the ordinary usage throughout this compilation, the following account is preserved of the several records of lands here, made at the Norman Survey :

The land of the earl of Morton is described in Moleslou Hundred, in Wavendon, as two hides, held by Ralph of the earl, for one manor. There were two carucates and a half; in the demense one; and two villeins, with three bordars, having one carucate and a half, might have been cultivated. There was one servant, and two carucates of pasture; wood for fifteen hogs; value, twenty shillings; when he first held it, ten shillings; and in the time of Edward, forty shillings. This manor Gohnil, hurscarle, a man of Edward held, and could sell it.

In the same vill, Walter held of the earl two hides for a manor. There were two carucates of land and a half; in the demesne was one; and two villeins, with three bordars, had one carucate; and to this might have been added the half of another. There were two servants, two carucates of pasture, wood for fifteen hogs; valued at twenty shillings; when he first held it, ten shillings; and in the time of Edward,

forty shillings. Brictuin, a man of earl Harrold, held this manor, and could sell it.

In the same vill, Humphrey held of the earl three virgates. There was one carucate of land; and one bordar, with one carucate of pasture; then, and had been, valued at five shillings; in the time of Edward, ten shillings. This land Leuent, the son of Osmund, a man of Kent, held, and could sell it.

The land of Hugh de Bolebec in *Wauuendone*, was surveyed in Sigelai Hundred. Ansel held of Hugh three hides (excepting a virgate) for a manor. There were three carucates of land, four oxen, with two villeins, and three bordars, and three carucates of pasture. It was and had been, worth forty shillings; in the time of Edward, sixty shillings. This land had been holden by Suen, a man of earl Harrold, and could sell it.

Lewin de Neweham's land in *Wauuendone* was surveyed in Moselai Hundred; of which, Godwin, the presbyter, held one virgate. There were four ox gangs of land, and three bordars, and pasture for four oxen. It was, and had been, valued at two shillings; in the time of Edward, at five shillings. The same tenant had holden it in the time of Edward, and could sell it.

There was another estate, holden immediately of the king, by Leuuin Chaua, as one hide. There was one carucate, with three villeins, and five bordars; one servant, and a carucate of pasture; wood for fifty hogs. It was then, and always had been estimated at ten shillings. This land, Leuuin himself, who was the king's minister, had holden, and could sell it.

The land of Walter Flandrensis, surveyed in Moselai Hundred, was described as holden under him by Fulco, being one hide and one virgate for a manor. There was one carucate of land, and one villein, with a carucate of pasture, which was valued at ten shillings; when he first held it, at twenty shillings; and the same in the days of Edward. This land, Sueine, a man of the earl Harold, had holden, and could sell it. Fulco, the earl, also held here, one hide and one virgate. There were four oxgangs of land, and four ploughs kept; with wood for ten hogs. It was then and had always been valued at ten shillings. It had been holden by Gladwin, a man of St. Alban's, who could sell it.

In the time of William I., here were several manors, but they have all been lost or merged in other royalties. The principal of them were given by William the Conqueror, to his half brother, Robert, earl of Morton, in which he was succeeded by his son William; but, he rebelling against Henry I., had his lands taken from him; and this manor given, about 1180, to the ancient family of Passelews; when, by a fine and recovery, it was conveyed by Peter Passelew, to John Peover, or Peyvre, and Mary his wife. However, the mansion house seems to have been left in the possession of a branch of this family; for in the registers of Lincoln, it appears that a dispensation was granted to William Passelew, to celebrate divine service in an oratory at his house at Wavendon, in 1344, which house, by tradition, is the great farm house opposite to the church.

In the family of the Peovers, this manor and advowson was of no longer continuance; for, Sir Nicholas Peover, grandson of John the grantee, by fine, passed it away in 1358, to Sir Henry Green, and in his family and name it remained in the time of Henry VI.; when it came, by the marriage of Constance, daughter and heir of Sir Henry Green, of Drayton, in Northamptonshire, to John Stafford, a younger son of Stafford, duke of Buckingham, who, as is supposed in the time of Edward IV., assigned the manor and advowson to his near kinsman, Thomas Stafford, of Tattenhoe; for he possessed both in 1485; and that he died possessed thereof, appears by his last will, dated 10 August 1517, in which he appointed his body to be buried in the church, and bequeathed his demesnes here to William Stafford, his natural son, which William died also in possession hereof, in 1530, leaving it in jointure to Elizabeth his wife; who, being married to Edmund Ashfield, afterwards knighted, he held it in his wife's right; and in 1570, presented to the rectory. But not long after 1570, this manor and advowson were dissevered, and sold separately; the manor to the family of Fitz Hugh; from whom, it came by marriage, to the Cranwells, and was sold by Fitz Hugh Cranwell, to Giffard Beale; who conveyed it, about 1672, to John Cullen, citizen of London, and Hugh, sheriff of this county in 1682. From Cullen, it came, by the marriage of his granddaughter, to Robert Isaacson, who was lord of the manor in 1735.

The advowson passed about this time, by purchase, to William Stone, for he is returned to be patron thereof in 1602, he sold the same to the Nortons; who, in 1698, presented to the church their kinsman, William Norton; from whose daughter it came in marriage, to John Deyos, whose heir sold it to Gilpin, and he conveyed it to the Rev. John Jeffreys, successor to the rectory to William Norton; who, dying in 1660, was succeeded by the Rev. Adam Booker, his son-in-law; and, having an interest in the sale of the advowson, resigned the rectory in 1678, in favour of Charles Stafford, a younger son of Thomas Stafford, of Tattenhoe, for whom his father had purchased the advowson off the late John Jeffrey's heir. In the heirs of Stafford, this advowson continued in 1678, and then became vested in Thomas James Selby, as representative of his father, James Selby, serjeant-at-law, who died in 1723, having, in 1698, purchased the Stafford estate at Tattenhoe, and with it, this advowson. This first manor is presumed to be holden of the Honour of Berkhamstead, and annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall, though no suit or service was done, nor any citation was issued to appear at Berkhamsted court.

Hugh de Bolebec's manor descended to his two sons, Hugh and Walter, in succession; and from the latter, to his daughter Isabel, who carried it in marriage to her husband, Robert de Vere, afterwards earl of Oxford, in the same way as Calverton and Great Linford are described to have passed.

Robert de Vere, who became the third earl of Oxford in 1214, on the death of Alberic, his elder brother, without issue, had, by Isabel de Bolebec two sons; Hugh who succeeded him in his earldom, and Sir Henry Vere, of Great Addington, Northamptonshire; and a daughter

Isabel, who was married to Sir John de Courteney, ancestor of the earls of Devon of that family.

On the marriage of Isabel de Vere with John Courteney, which took place before 1254, Robert, earl of Oxford, gave this manor in Wavendon, together with the manor of Hillesden, to the said John Courteney, in frank marriage with his daughter; and he died possessed of it in 1273.

About the time of the marriage of Courteney, the seigniorship of this manor had been possessed by Richard earl of Clare, as part of the mediety of the honour of Giffard, which had been given to his ancestor by Richard I.; but this must have been an usurpation, as Walter Giffard, the first earl of Buckingham, never held any lands at Wavendon, though the house of Bolebec held in all twenty knights' fees, parcel of that honour. The usurpation however, appears to have been acquiesced in, and the earls of Clare and their successors in the honour of Giffard, claimed and enjoyed from this period, the privilege of court leet, in the manor of Wavendon.

Henry VIII., demised this estate to John Sheppard, at £11/6/8 per annum. Edward Courteney, the last earl of that family, being restored in blood by Queen Mary, on her accession in 1553, this manor, with other demenses, were regranted to him. But on his death, without issue it escheated to the crown; and Philip and Mary, by letters patent, granted it, in perpetuity, to the said John Sheppard, with a release of rent of £11/6/8, about the year 1558; who, leaving issue, only two daughters, it came by marriage of Joan, the eldest daughter, to Thomas Wells, of Great Gaddesden, in Herts, to whom succeeded George Wells; who, by Margaret his wife, daughter of John Lodge, had issue, John Wells; who, by Beatrix his wife, daughter of Mr. Taylor, had issue, George Wells; who dying possessed hereof, unmarried, in 1713, was succeeded by Lionel Wells, his brother and heir; and, at his death in 1717, descended to John Wells, nephew to the said George Wells, and son of Lionel Wells. This George Wells dying unmarried, bequeathed several charities to this parish, particularly by founding and liberally endowing a school for eight boys, who were to be taught, clothed, and apprenticed; for the endowment whereof he bequeathed £800; to which his executrix, Mrs. Beatrix Miller, his sister Mary's daughter, who was wife to John Miller, a tradesman in London, living also a single life, added £200, and increased the number of boys to ten. With these legacies, there was purchased for the charity an estate of more than £40 a year, of which the master had an annuity of £10 paid him, and a chaldron of coals.

Another small manor, which belonged to the earl of Morton, coming likewise as the first manor did, to Bolebec, and descending to the Veres earls of Oxford, they gave the same, about the year 1220, to the convent of Woburn; and so it remained part of the possessions of that monastery, till the general dissolution in 1539, when, coming to the crown, Elizabeth granted it, in 1559, to Richard Campion and John Thompson, who parcelled it out, and sold it to several proprietors.

This estate included two groves called the Abbots' Wood, and

Fuller's Earth Grounds, and a manor house, called the Grange, which belonged to the Gregorys, who purchased it of the Thompsons, by whom it was conveyed to the family of Wells. The estate belonged to James Selby, serjeant-at-law, was parcel of this third manor; who, on account of its being his native place, about the year 1703, added to, and greatly enlarged a house which his father had in past rebuilt, made handsome gardens, canals, and fish ponds, and planted orchards and avenues of trees.

These estates being holden of the extensive Royalty of Brockborough which were for several generations the property of the earls of Kent, of the name of Grey, they sold their claim, about the year 1630, to the family of Stone, who conveyed their right to the Russells, dukes of Bedford, about 1702; and that family received a quit-rent, by virtue thereof, of about £3/0/6 per annum.

Here were, in 1628, some rents, called Certainty Money, amounting to £2/6/2, held by copy of Brockborough Royalty, which now belong to the duke of Bedford. Here are also lands which pay 6/8 to Ewelme Manor or Honour.

The estate of the Hoares, was purchased of different persons and at several times.

The mansion at Green End, formerly belonging to the Selbys, and by the last of the Selbys conveyed to a Shuttleworth, having been purchased by Lord Charles Fitzroy, brother of his grace the duke of Grafton was by his lordship, conveyed to Henry Hugh Hoare, in 1798. And another part of this estate, called the Grange, was purchased by him in 1805, of Mr. Gregory; with other lands, in 1815, of Mr. Williams, yeoman of Willen.

The mansion, partly rebuilt and considerably improved after the acquisition of it by Henry Hugh Hoare, afterwards baronet, who succeeded to that title on the death of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart., his elder half-brother, the only son and heir apparent of the said Sir Richard Colt Hoare, having died without issue in his lifetime, contains more spacious and elegant apartments. ornamented with a small but valuable collection of paintings; amongst which, two capital landscapes are to be mentioned as remarkably fine. A painting of the three Marys and the dead Christ; another of the Massacre of the Innocents, horribly fine; and several portraits of the Hoare family. The situation of the house is rural and retired, the approach being by a neat lodge, on the eastern side of the great road from Woburn to Northampton.

Ecclesiastical History of Wavendon.

The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £26 6s. 10½d., and in the gift of the Hoare family. In the clergy list its approximate value is now given as £579, and its real net value, £467 per annum. The advowson was severed from the manor, and passed through many hands before it was purchased by the the family of Hoare. The tithes were commuted in 1846.

Rectors of Wavendon.

- WILLIAM FITZ ROBERT, presbyter, was presented by the parson of the church of Wavendon, with the consent of the lord Passelew, to the vicarage there, in 1221.
- WILLIAM DE DALEFORD was presented 1228, by Gilbert Passelew, personam et patronum.
- HAMO DE STOCKTON was presented in 1230.
- ADAM DE OSGODBY. He was canon of Lincoln.
- WILLIAM DE ATON, presented 6 September 1316, by the lady Mary St. Amand. He exchanged it for Dallington, with
- JOHN DE BENINGTON, who was presented 4 April 1328, by the bishop's licence. He resigned in 1358; and was succeeded by
- WILLIAM DE BENINGTON, who was presented 8 December 1358, by Sir Nicholas Peyvre. He died; and
- WALTER NORMAN, was presented 1 October 1361, by Henry Green. He exchanged with
- JOHN DE SWYNSTFDE, or Dallington rectory, and was presented 25 January 1365, by Sir Henry Green, knight.
- ROBERT DE CLAYPOOL was presented 26 March 1396, and exchanged for Wightham, in Berks, with
- JOHN HOLBROOK, 12 June 1408; who exchanged for Codrington, in Chester, with
- JOHN CRAUNTON, or GRANTON, 7 August 1408. At his death,
- JOHN STOW was presented 13 June 1415, by Sir Thomas Green, knight. He died; and
- THOMAS TINGWICK was presented 31 August 1433, by the lady Mary Talbot, late wife of Sir Thomas Green, knight. At his death,
- JOHN COMPTON, LL.B., was presented 5 November 1424, by the same patron.
- WILLIAM CLARKE died rector 1463. His successor was
- THOMAS FULLER, who was presented 1 June, by Thomas Billing, sergeant-at-law, Henry Green, John Rows, Thomas Seaton, Thomas Throckmorton, and Richard Clavel. He was also rector of Emberton. At his death,
- RICHARD HALL was presented 15 October 1485, by Thomas Stafford. He died; and
- JOHN CHANDLER was presented 26 September 1507. On his cession,
- JOHN BENTLEY, was presented 16 February 1516, by Thomas Watts, ex concessione Thomas Stafford. He died; and
- WILLIAM EDWARDS was collated 24 December 1523, by the bishop of Lincoln, on lapse.
- WILLIAM ASHFIELD was presented 15 February 1537, by Edmund Ashfield. He died; and
- JOHN CHILD was presented 7 January 1549, by the king. At his death,
- JOHN HEWBANKE was presented 26 July 1560.
- RICHARD EDMUNDS, LL.B., was presented 27 February 1570. He was also rector of Shenley in 1574. On his resignation of this living,
- WILLIAM STONE, M.A., was admitted 10 August 1598, on the presentation of William Pyder, citizen and alderman of London. He resigned; and
- WILLIAM NORTON, M.A., was presented by Robert Norton, and instituted 25 January 1608.
- JOHN JEFFREY succeeded in 1648, and died in 1660. He was succeeded by
- ADAM BOOKER, B.A., who was admitted 26 July 1660. He resigned, and took Broughton rectory; being succeeded by
- CHARLES STAFFORD, B.D., who was instituted 4 March 1678, on the presentation of Thomas Stafford of Tattenhoe. He died; and
- WILLIAM CARONE, B.A., was presented 29 July 1702, by James Selby, sergeant-at-law. He died 4 July 1716, in consequence of a fall from his horse; and was succeeded by
- HENRY GALLY, M.A., instituted 23 November 1721, on the presentation of Peter Gally. He was succeeded by his father.
- PETER GALLY, 1733. He died; and

THOMAS HYDE, M.A., was presented in 1742, by Thomas James Selby. At his death.

THOMAS SAWELL, B.A., was presented 2 April 1768. He resigned in favour of DANIEL SHIPTON, M.A., presented by Thomas James Selby, and inducted 17 April 1796. He was also vicar of Willen, and died in 1805: being succeeded by JOHN FISHER, M.A., inducted 18 October 1805, on the presentation of Robert Gatty of Throgmorton street, London.

HENRY BURNEY, M.A., was presented in 1847: at his death, he was succeeded by BARRINGTON HENRY ARTHUR PHILLPOTTS, who was presented in 1893.

Watendon Parish Church.

The church, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, was entirely restored under the direction of Mr. Butterfield, architect, in 1848-9, at a cost of about £4,000, raised by subscription and donation. The components of the church are a chancel, nave with aisles, clerestory and south porch, and a west tower. The style of the chancel is Early Decorated, the piers and arches of the nave are very fine Decorated, and the roofs, the clerestory, and the tower are good Perpendicular. The tower is embattled and contains five very good bells, inscribed:

First: NEWCOMBE MADE WEE 1616.

Second: REV^d. DANIEL SHIPTON, RECTOR 1792 JOHN BATTAMS AND JOHN PLOWMAN, CHURCHWARDENS E. ARNOLD, LEICESTER FECIT.

Third: CHANDLER MADE MEE 1705.

Fourth: JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1815,

Fifth: RICHARD CHANDLER MADE MEE 1705 I · G · C · W.

The principal entrance to the church is through the beautiful porch, and on the right-hand side of the doorway is the holy-water stoupe. The side aisles are separated from the spacious nave by four arches on each side, resting upon clustered columns. The aisles were formerly side chapels, the piscinas of which remain. The floor of the nave is paved with Minton's tiles, red and black, and pointed with Keane's white cement. The stalls, or open seats, are of oak, with carved ends. The pulpit—an old one, bought from the church of St. Dunstan in the West, London, is of carved oak, raised upon a stone base, and ascended by stone steps. There is a moveable lectern of oak, for the lessons, and a fald-stool for the litany. The large font, of Tottenhoe stone, is elaborately sculptured, and has a finely carved cover of oak, suspended from above by chains, and a gilt dove. The roof of the nave, which is covered with lead, is of great height, and has sculptured heads for corbals. The clerestory windows are glazed with green tinted Cathedral glass. There are some excellent windows of two lights in the aisles, and a good three-light one at the east end of the north aisles.

The chancel arch is pointed and well proportioned. Beneath it is a low screen, coloured in the mouldings and panels, with green and red on a white ground, and a pair of highly-finished solid gates of brass enriched with enamelled work, and supported by two elegant brass

standards, tufted with flowered finials representing the sun-flower. The fine east window, in four divisions, is filled with stained glass representing Our Lord seated, and in the act of blessing, with SS. Peter and Paul on either side of him; and the figures of the four Evangelists beneath. In the south wall are a double piscina of curious design, and triple sedilia; the sedile farthest from the east being the largest of the three, with a semicircular head, the two others being lancet-pointed. Recessed in the opposite wall, is an arcade, containing four stone stalls with plain semicircular arches. The oak panelled roof of the chancel is coloured ultra-marine, and thickly studded with stars of gold, extending to the head of the east window, which contains figures amidst the stars, of the Greater and Lesser Light. An illuminated scroll is banded closely round the label moulding of the same window, and bears an appropriate inscription. The backs of the sedilia are coloured ultra-marine, with fleur-de-lis, &c. The floor is paved with red and buff encaustic tiles, the estrade being of a richer pattern. The communion-table consists of a massive oak frame supporting a slab of blue lias—the whole covered with a beautiful ante-ependium of rich velvet elegantly embroidered. The communion-table is adorned by a handsome cross, a pair of candlesticks, and a brass desk of elegant design. In the chancel are oak stalls with carved poppy-heads, for the choristers; and in an apartment on the north side (which serves also for a robing-room) is a powerful and fine toned organ, built by Walker, of London in 1849.

Besides the east window, the chancel contains two other stained glass windows, on the south side, representing the Annunciation and the Adoration of the Magi. The window at the end of the north aisle is also a stained glass one, exhibiting the Crucifixion, with the figures of the Virgin Mother and St. John, on either side. In the south aisle is a memorial window representing the Resurrection, with this inscription:—"In memory of Henry Charles Hoare, who departed this life January 15th, A.D. 1852, aged 61 years. This window was erected by his faithful wife." Near it is another window, a memorial of "Laura Isabella Hoare, who died on the 4th of December, 1850." It contains figures of St. Catherine and St. Agnes. The whole of the stained glass is by Mr. O'Connor, of London,

In the north aisle is a handsome mural monument of marble to Sir Henry Hugh Hoare, Bart., of Wavendon House, who died August 17th 1841. At the west end of the same aisle is an elaborately carved mural monument to the memory of George Wells, Esq., who bequeathed £800 for a charity school in this parish, and died in 1713, in his 73rd year.

Under the east window of the north aisle is a beautifully illuminated mural brass to the memory of Henry Arthur Hoare, Esq., of Wavendon House, youngest son of Sir Henry Hugh Hoare, who died 6 November 1873, aged 69 years.

In the north aisle is a coloured memorial window, inscribed "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of their Father, the Rev. Henry Burney, this window is given by his four children, 1894." Below the above on a tablet of brass is the following:

This window is erected in loving memory of Henry Burney, for 47 years rector of

this parish, only surviving son of Richard Allen Burney, Rector of Rimpton, in the county of Somerset, by his wife Elizabeth Layton Williams, of Herrington Manor, Dorset. He married, in 1842, Sophia, youngest daughter of P. R. Hoare, Esq., of Clayton Hall, Lancashire, and Kelsey Park in the county of Kent, brother of Sir Henry Hugh Hoare, Bart., of this parish, and after a life long devotion to his duties here during which time he restored the church and built the rectory house almost entirely at his own expense, entered into rest on the 16th day of July 1893, after a few days illness, aged 79. He leaves a son and three daughters to mourn the irreparable loss of one who not only was a most kind and affectionate father, but whose hand was ever open to relieve the necessities and wants of the poor and needy. R.I.P.

On the west wall of the vestry is a black marble whereon is a brass plate affixed, with arms, per chevron, three elephants' heads erased, and this inscription:—In this chancel lieth the body of Richard Saunders, whose ancestors are interred at Battlesdon and Potsgrave, in the county of Bedford; which Richard had 4 wives, Eliz. Charge, Frances Fitzburgh, Beatrice Annesley, & Fraunces Staunton, by whom he had 27 children. He died July 15, 1639, aged 76.

In the churchyard is a modern cross, and there are good memorial stones to members of the families of Boyle, Burney, Fairtlough, Hoare, Lane, Mayor, etc.

The Rectory House of Wavendon.

The rectory house was erected in 1848, at a cost of about £3,000, and is a handsome edifice in the Gothic style. The situation is good, and the extensive grounds are planted with the choicest shrubs and evergreens.

The Towers, Wavendon.

The residence of Colonel H. E. Burney, known as The Towers, is an imposing fabric of brick in the Norman and Italian style of architecture. It is situate in nicely laid out grounds, upon high ground, and commands extensive and picturesque views of the surrounding country.

Wavendon Charities.

There are almshouses for four poor widows, situated near the school. They were erected by Sir Henry Hugh Hoare, and are small brick buildings.

By his will, proved in 1714, George Wells of Wavendon, bequeathed the sum of £800 with which to purchase lands, the rents of the same to be applied chiefly to the teaching of the children of the poor parishioners to read and write, and putting them out apprentices to honest trades; and he left a cottage or tenement "with the orchard and ley of ground thereto adjoining, situate in the church end of Wandon (Wavendon) for the same charitable purposes." The testator directed that his trustees should meet once a year, on St. George's Day (23rd April), to inspect the accounts of the charity, and be allowed twenty shillings a year to discharge the expenses of such meetings; and he also directed twenty shillings, or a guinea, a year, to be paid to the minister of Wavendon for preaching a charity sermon on the morning of the said day of meeting.

Beatrice Miller, niece of Mr. Wells, and one of his executors, afterwards bequeathed £200 to this charity. These two sums were expended in land, and the property of the charity consisted, when the charity commissioners made their report some years ago, of a farm house and farm of 99½ acres in Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire, and a close of pasture called Coldham Close, in Moulsoe parish, containing about eight acres. The income of the charity is about £80 per annum.

The "Town Lands" consists, according to the commissioners' report, of five houses and about ten acres of land. The land is divided into gardens and the property yields an annual income of about £25.

John Farr left twenty shillings a year to be given in bread to the poor.

By articles of agreement entered into in 1809, the duke of Bedford annually supplies coal to the amount of £150, for the poor, in lieu of waste land awarded under an Inclosure Act in 1791.

The "Surveyors Allotment" consists of above four acres of land, and about two acres which have been planted with firs.



BOW BRICKHILL.



THE Brickhills comprise three parishes, viz., Bow Brickhill, Great Brickhill, and Little Brickhill, lying eastward of the river Ousel or Lovat, which forms their common boundary. Lipscomb says that they are so denominated from the soil and product, of three contiguous eminences of considerable height, which form a conspicuous feature in this part of the Hundreds; and are "probably distinguished by their respective names, from the size of hills on which these villages are built, and the name of one of the ancient possessors of that which is most northward of the three; although," he continues, "some have doubted whether the appellation of Bow Brickhill was acquired from such possessor, or the imaginary shape of the eminence on the slope and foot on which it is situated."

The three villages of Brickhill are thus described in a popular rhyme :

Here stands three Brickhills all in a row,
Great Brickhill, Little Brickhill,
And Brickhill with the Bow.

The parish of Bow Brickhill, including the hamlet of Caldecote, is bounded on the north, by Walton; on the east, by Wavendon and Bedfordshire; on the south, by Little Brickhill; and on the west, by Simpson. The area is 1,848 acres, and the population 464. The soil is sandy on the hills, and a heavy clay in other parts. A hard species of iron stone is quarried, for building, and repairing roads. The elevation of the hill is 558 feet above sea level; the summit commanding a beautiful and very extensive view over the Newport Hundreds, and the adjoining counties. On the hill is a good spring of pure water, which has never been known to fail. A wood of several acres, adjoining the church yard, through which are several winding paths or glades, is the frequent resort of pic-nic parties, in the summer season.

The scattered village of Bow Brickhill lies seven miles south from Newport Pagnell, and two miles east from Fenny Stratford. It is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, rural deanery of Bletchley, arch deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The Congregational chapel is endowed by a Miss Hillier with £50 a year. The Wesleyan chapel was erected in 1840, and enlarged in 1879.

A stone slab, inserted in the wall of a cottage in the centre of the village, bears this inscription: Bow Brickhill Heath was awarded to the poor of this parish, 1793; an Act of Parliament was obtained to sell it by the Trustees, 1844. Then follows the names of the trustees and the date, 1 June 1844.

Caldecote Hamlet consists of two farms and a few cottages, about half a mile from Bow Brickhill. One of the farm houses is ancient; this is known as Caldecote farm, and is the property of Mr. Charles Garrett, who purchased it in 1900; about 600 yards from the house, in a field known as Great Berrystead, are the remains of a moat which enclosed about half an acre—no doubt the site of an ancient mansion. The other farm residence is a modern one.

Manorial History of Bow Brickhill.

At the Domesday Survey, Bow Brickhill is supposed to have been part of the estate of Walter Giffard, in Mouselai Hundred; and after the decease of his son and successor, Walter, earl of Buckingham, about 1164, descended with that division of the lands of Giffards; which on a partition of the inheritance of Richard I., was assigned to the earl of Clare. The seigniorship belonging to the earldom of Gloucester in 1317, was included in the purparty of Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audley; and afterwards passed by the marriage of his daughter and heir to Ralph, earl of Stafford, who had a court leet, and certain knight's-fee here in 1372. The paramount lordship at length came to Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VI.

One of the feudatories, who held under the chief lords, is said to have been Ranulf, who held the manor of Walter Giffard, as five hides; there being land for five teams; in the demesne two; and eight villeins with two bordars, having three ploughs; two servants; pasture for five teams; valued at sixty shillings, but only forty shillings when he first held it. In the days of king Edward, worth one hundred shillings when Godwin a man of bishop Wolvi, held two hides for a manor; Godbold, one hide; Alric, one; Ardric, one; and all these men might sell their land.

Here was, at the same period, another manor which Robert held under Walter Giffard, as four hides; the land was for five teams; in the demesne three; and nine villeins, with five bordars, had two ploughs. There were three servants, and one mill of ten shillings rent; pasture for five teams; wood for one hundred hogs, constantly rated at one hundred shillings; and of this land Godwin a man of bishop Wolvi, held formerly two hides for his manor; and five other thanes held the remaining two hides. and might sell their lands. It seems to be very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain whether these two manors, at the division of the lands of Walter Giffard, constituted the whole of the parish.

In the Testa de Nevil, Robert de Chauceys or Cauz; is said to have holden one knight's fee in Bolle Brickhill, of the honour of Ampthill; long before that period, viz. in the reign of Richard I., a fine was past, of two hides of lands in Bow Brickhill, between Stephen de Turnham and Geoffrey de Cauceis; and Willis infers, that the estate passed by a female heir of the family of Cauz, to the Audleys, and thus came to the Staffords, dukes of Buckingham.

They who are inclined to suppose that Bow Brickhill derived its

name from the family of Boel or Bouels (and therefore consider the lands here to have been those mentioned in the records of the time of John, and not Great Brickhill, as others say), refer to the Placita, in which it appears that a jury was called to enquire if Annora, wife of Maubane had unjustly disseised John de Boels of his free tenement in Brechull; and the jury said, that when the Normans returned, Robert Bardolf, husband of the said Annora, remained in Normandy, and his wife was detained in England, who was desirous of conveying the lands aforesaid to his brother John, the son of Henry Boels, their father.

In the very beginning of the reign of John, Henry de Bouels was seneschal or steward to Simon de Beauchamp; for William the son of Richard owed £8/19/4 of white silver for Brickhill, and the lands of Robert de la Roche, and when, afterwards, Robert Bardolf came into England, he forcibly took possession of those lands, which, during his lifetime his wife had alienated, and held them from about Easter until near Christmas, and again departing, died; whereupon the earl of Chester, who was the chief lord, having heard thereof, possessed the lands into his own hands, and so held them until Annora applied to the earl, and made over to him all her right in the same.

Bow Brickhill was holden by the family of Fermand, of Battlesden, Bedfordshire, who represented that county in several Parliaments. In 1317 Nicholas Fremband held one knight's-fee here; and was constable of the castle of Bristol, in the reign of Edward II. He had also the custody of the See of Bath and Well, and other great estates, which yet were occasionally possessed into the king's hands. His son Thomas succeeded him in his Bedfordshire estate; but afterwards, Sir John Fermand, probably his son, exercised his patronage of this church between 1336 and 1349; and in the latter and succeeding years, the lord Stafford, as lord paramount, was the patron.

In an escheat in 1372, Ralph, earl of Stafford, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, were possessed inter al. of a leet in this manor, and of knight's-fees here; and in Caldecote, Wavendon, Bradwell, Broughton, &c., which descended to Hugh, earl of Stafford, who died possessed in 1387. The same estate descended with the rest of the lands of the Staffords, until it came as before mentioned, to Humphrey duke of Buckingham. Between 1372 and 1395, it had been in the possession of John Wydeville, younger son of Richard Wydeville, of Grafton Regis, Northants, who is conjectured to have obtained it by the marriage of Fermand. Humphrey duke of Buckingham died in 1460, possessed of this manor, with court leet and advowson.

By an inquisition held at North Marston, 24 November 1530, it is set forth, that Edward Watson, gent., died 11 October 1530, possessed of the manor and advowson of Bow Brickhill and Caldecote held of the honour of Gloucester, Caldecote being appendant to Bow Brickhill; with lands in Wavendon and Walton; and that he had issue, Henry, his son and heir, Edward, Kenelm, and Catherine; also the manor of Mantells, in Little Missenden, held of the king by fealty only. This Edward Watson seems, in 1521, to have purchased this estate in Bow

Brickhill and Caldecote, and to have paid a fine for it.

James I. in 1610, granted to John Aldred and William Whitmore, inter al. rents of assize and services, belonging to the honour of Gloucester, in Bow Brickhill, Wavendon, and Little Woolstone, parcel of the possessions of Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham. These were parcelled out and sold by John Dormer. In 1757, Henry Davis's moiety of the manor was in the hands of Mr. Rhodes and another mortgagee; the manor farm being about £150 per annum.

Queen Elizabeth granted, by patent, in 1598, to Henry Best and Robert Holland, all those hereditaments, cum pert. in Walton and Bow Brickhill, formerly in the occupation of Richard Pinge, afterwards of Richard Charnock, and then of Robert Toms and Richard Kent, for their lives; being parcel of the possessions of the fraternity of St. Margaret and St. Catherine, in Fenny Stratford, at the annual rent of £3/3/- for ever, as of the manor of East Greenwich.

The manor having passed through the hands of several purchasers, came to Francis Moor, Esq., of Hockliffe, Bedfordshire, who planted many thousand Scotch firs over the whole surface of the greater part of this and the neighbouring parishes, both in this county and in Bedfordshire; and in 1792 the manor of Bow Brickhill was sold to his grace, Francis, duke of Bedford; at whose decease, it descended, along with the rest of the estates of that noble family, to his brother, John, duke of Bedford, K.G.; whose successors still hold the same.

In 1790, about two thousand acres in this parish, and the contiguous hamlet or township of Fenny Stratford, were enclosed under Act of Parliament, the impropriation being then in the hands of the Rev. James Eyre, leasee under the See of Canterbury; and the principal possessors of lands being Joseph Agar and Francis Moore, Esqs.; Ann Parker, spinster; Catherine Primatt, widow; John Chapman, Edward Cook, and Thomas Warner.

The monastery of Woburn, Beds, held lands here, at the time of the ecclesiastical valuation, in the reign of Henry VIII.; and the priory of Chicksand, in the same county, also held rents of lands in Bowe Brickhill, valued at six shillings and eightpence per annum.

Ecclesiastical History of Bow Brickhill.

The family of Cauz having, about 1185, given the advowson of the church here to the abbey of Woburn, resumed their grant in 1234. and continued lords and patrons until the time of Edward I. when they passed it, about 1300, to sir John Fermband; who, in 1349, conveyed his right to Ralph Stafford, lord Stafford, to whose family great part of the Giffards' lands came by a daughter of the lord Audley; which lord Stafford, about 1362, seems to have passed it to the Wydevilles, of Grafton, in Northamptonshire; for they occur patrons until the reign of Henry VI., when it was in the possession of Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham, who died possessed thereof in 1460.

The family of Watsons possessed the advowson in 1520, and enjoyed the same for upwards of one hundred years. In 1626, it came by the

death of Anthony Watson, to sir Francis Browne, probably by the marriage of his daughter and heir, who in conjunction with the Watsons, sold the advowson to sir William Ashton about 1630; from whose family it passed, by marriage to the Bucks of Lincoln, about 1650; and was in 1726, sold by sir Charles Buck, knt., to sir John Stratton, knt., of Derbyshire, the patron in 1734.

In 1712, it was returned to bishop Wake, that £2/5/- was given to the repairs of the church; and that the parish is between four and five miles in compass. It then paid to the land tax £158/15/6. In another place, it is said that it pays to the land tax £124/13/6½.

The register commences in 1633; and contains a record of the appointment of John Petts, sworn as registrar, under the Cromwell Act, signed by Henry Whitbread, one of the magistrates for the county of Buckingham.

Rectors of Bow Brickhill.

JOHN DE ESSEX, presented by the Abbat of Woburn in 1219; and confirmed to him in 1221.

THOMAS, died 1269, and was succeeded by

ROBERT DE CHAUCEYS, presented by Robert de Chauceys, 7 May 1269.

THOMAS DE EVERE, exchanged for Blakesley, with

JOHN DAYFAULL, 1 October 1336, presented by John Fermband.

JOHN WATERE or ATTE WATERE, presented 6 March 1344, by Sir John Fermband.

He died, and

THOMAS SCIBROKE DE HOLCOTE was instituted 3 June 1349.

JOHN DE ROTHWELL was presented by Ralph, baron de Stafford, 4 August 1349.

He resigned.

JOHN DE DONSTABLE, presented 3 June 1350, by the same patron.

JOHN HANK exchanged for Brettenham, in Norwich diocese, with

JOHN TRIGG, 3 March 1357; who exchanged for Kensington vicarage, Middlesex, with

JOHN THOMAS, 16 January 1372, presented by John, son of Richard Wydeville. He exchanged for Hemel Hempstead vicarage, with

ROBERT PAGE, 13 August 1376. He exchanged for Astley collegiate church, with

WILLIAM GARBETT, 5 May 1383.

JOHN NAPPERE was presented 28 June 1387; and exchanged for Wolverton, with

JOHN SYWARD, 13 November 1390. He died, and was succeeded by

JOHN MARTIN DE ROKEBY, presented and instituted 9 July 1395.

RICHARD DE CAUSE, instituted 9 February 1396. He resigned, on exchange for Alverscote rectory.

JOHN GODERICHE died 1457; and was succeeded by

RICHARD TOPPYNG, presented 19 November 1457, by Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham. At his death

WILLIAM WAAS, instituted 12 July 1474, on the presentation of Humphrey Starkey and William Bryan. He died 1483, being precentor of Lichfield, and rector of Kingston, Warwickshire.

WILLIAM CUMBERLAND died 1510.

HENRY SHERRARD, instituted 25 March 1510, on the presentation of Thomas Sherrard, by reason of Margerie Halywell's minority. He died; and

THOMAS DAGETT, LL.B., was presented by Thomas Sherrard, 10 September 1510, but resigned

CHRISTOPHER PARKYN, was presented by William Overend, and instituted 24 October 1519.

ALEXANDER WITHERNWICK, instituted 6 September 1530, on the presentation of Edward Watson. He occurs rector in 1543.

HENRY KIRKE, presented 1543; resigned 1547; and was succeeded by

- THOMAS BIRD, instituted 25 March 1547, on the presentation of Leonard Watson. He held it in 1558.
- JOHN WOODSALL (WOODFALL ?) succeeded in 1559 or 1560. He died in 1568, and wished to be buried in the chancel.
- WILLIAM WATSON, B.A., instituted 1572. He died in 1608, and was buried in the chancel 2 December.
- ROBERT BARKER, M.A., was presented and instituted in the king's title, by reason of the lunacy of Edward Watson, 9 December 1608. He died and was buried here 27 May 1632.
- JOHN LAWRENCE was instituted in 1632 ; but resigned in February 1636.
- GEORGE ASHTON, B.D., prebendary of Charlton-cum-Dalby, in Lincoln cathedral, was presented by sir William Ashton, and instituted 1 March 1636. He was also rector of Beaconsfield where he was buried 3 March 1668. Whilst resident at Beaconsfield his curate here Oliver Thoroughgood, is reported to have had a bed in the school-house, or chapel.
- GREGORY HASCARD instituted 31 March 1669. on the presentation of William and Elizabeth Ashton. He died in 1708, dean of Windsor, having resigned this living. He was succeeded by
- BENJAMIN LOVELL, M.A., instituted 2 December 1671, on the presentation of the lady Margaret Buck, widow. Died in 1680, and was buried at Brickhill, without any memorial. He had been also rector of Leckhamstead.
- JONATHAN LAW was presented, having a title from the king, on account of Lovell's simony ; but the latter still retained possession of the living until his death.
- EDMUND BUTT, M.A., instituted 29 January 1680, on the presentation of Samuel Barker ; but is presumed to have lost it, for want of good title. William Slingsby, B.A., was licensed to be curate in 1680 ; and John Seymour, B.A., 1681.
- WILLIAM BURELL presented by sir William Buck, and instituted 21 May 1681. He died in 1687 ; and
- PHILIP DAVIES, rector of Bradenham, was presented by sir William Buck, and instituted 8 December 1687. He quitted it for Leckhamstead.
- JOHN BACHELER, presented by sir Charles Buck, and instituted 20 March 1718. He resigned ; and
- WILLIAM HORE was instituted 10 January 1722, on the presentation of sir Charles Buck, bart. He died 2 March 1742, and was buried at Tingrith, Bedfordshire, where he was also rector.
- JOHN PRESTON, B.A., presented by David Willaume, and inducted 7 June 1742. He had it in trust for the then patron's nephew.
- DAVID TANQUERAY, was presented 24 October 1744. He resigned ; and
- THOMAS TANQUERAY, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxon, 1749, was inducted 2 December 1760. At his death,
- EDWARD WILLAUME, M.A., 1770, of Trinity College, Cambridge, was admitted on his own presentation, as the true and undoubted patron, and inducted 1 June 1782.
- JAMES BENTHAM was presented by Edward Willaume, clerk, on his own cession, and inducted 15 March 1783.
- JOHN DUPRÉ, D.D., was inducted 4 March 1795, on his own presentation at the time as the true and undoubted patron in full right.
- JOHN JOSEPH GOODENOUGH, D.D., was admitted on the cession of John Duprè (who took preferment in Lincolnshire), and inducted 1821.
- STEPHEN DAVIES, was instituted in 1833.
- JOSEPH MARSHALL JACKSON, B.A., presented 1840, by Queen's College, Cambridge. At his death, he was succeeded by
- J. F. GROVES, who was presented in 1894.

All Saints Church, Bow Brickhill,

Stands on the edge of the steep hill, in a very exposed situation, about a quarter of a mile above the village ; and is a very conspicuous object, seen from a distance of many miles. During the last war with

France it was used as a telegraph station. Having become greatly delapidated, this church is said to have been disused for nearly 150 years; but was restored through the munificence and exertions of Browne Willis, the antiquary, who, in 1756, promoted a subscription for that purpose. In 1834, by a re-arrangement of the interior, 175 additional sittings were obtained. The component parts are a nave with side aisles, and a south porch, a chancel, and a west embattled tower, in which are four bells, inscribed :

First : GOD SAVE OVR KING 1634.

Second : CHAUNDLER MADE ME 1670.

Third : ♡ B C D ♡ O B ♡ ♡ D E E C E E ♡ W

Fourth : SOLI DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBVS 1649 A B I C

The whole is a good specimen of Perpendicular work, without the least mixture of any other style, or the introduction of modern windows; the latter are nearly all square-headed. Three arches on each side divide the nave from the aisles. The central cross beam of the roof bears the date of 1630. There is a piscina in the south aisle. The fine carved oak pulpit was brought from the old church at Buckingham, upon the erection of the modern edifice. The font is octagonal in form, and on the pedestal supporting it, are four eagles displayed. The compartments are decorated with quatrefoils and foliage; and one of them has a shield with two Roman T's impaled in relievo. The chancel is plain, with open wood ceiling. Beneath the chancel arch is an oak screen. On the north side is a mural tablet of black marble to the memory of the Rev. William Watson, inscribed as follows :

Here lyeth Will^m Watson, borne in Buckland in Hertfordshire, of a yeoman's race, he was a Bacchelaure of Artes, he continved P'son of this chvrch fyll 30 and 6 yeares, he lived a single life clear'd of all criminall offence, to his kinned; a zealous worshipper of God, an enemy to schismes, sectes, and Heresies, a lover of equalities and Hater of Discord. Beloved of all (of me especially), he died in the entrance of the three score and fourth yeare of his age, the last day of November, 1608, in the sixty yeare of happie raigne of Kinge Iames over England, being fvlly assvred by the power of Christ to rise again and to live withe heavenly saints eternally.

GVIL STONE CAQ ASPLEMENSIS.

Thov art come O death, by dying I am Blest,
Because that in y^e Lord I die, thov art, O death, my rest,
Borne I was, of mortall seede to die, I die to rise againe;
The second life is eve life w^{ch} feels no death nor payne.
Erected by Iohn Vitton, excvtor.

Bow Brickhill Charities.

By his will, proved 1634, Charles Parrett, of London, left a yearly rent charge of £16 to this parish, viz.. £5 to the poor; £5 for educating poor children; £5 for apprenticing poor boys; and £1 for preaching two sermons annually in remembrance of him.

Augustine Shaw, of this parish, by will in 1719, left a rent charge of £2/10/0 per annum in augmentation of the £5 a year already bequeathed by Charles Parrett, for apprenticing boys.

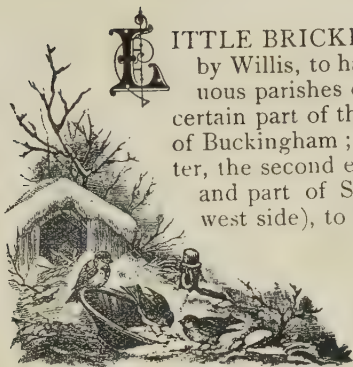
Jane Shaw, in 1722, left £3 per annum to the poor parishioners.

Under an Act for inclosing lands in this parish the Commissioners awarded in 1790, an allotment of 6 acres 19 poles of arable land in respect of certain lands called Town Land.

Under the same Act the Commissioners also awarded 198 acres 5 poles called the Black Ground, for the use of poor parishioners, for firing. The rector, churchwardens, and overseers, as trustees of this charity, obtained an Act of Parliament in 1844, authorising them to sell a portion of the allotment for the benefit of the poor.



LITTLE BRICKHILL.



LITTLE BRICKHILL, or Brickhill Parva, is supposed, by Willis, to have been taken out of the two contiguous parishes of Bow and Great Brickhill. It was certain part of the possessions of Walter Giffard, earl of Buckingham; and after the decease of his son Walter, the second earl, in 1164, passed, with Bletchley and part of Simpson (situate contiguously on the west side), to the family of Cauz, and was conveyed to the Turnhams in the reign of Richard 1. The Rev. Edward Cooke,* rector of Haversham, had no doubt of Little Brickhill having been holden, after the Conquest, by the bishop of Bayeux and Liseaux; and that this

manor, being united with other lands of Odo, became part of the barony of Maminot, and was holden by the services of performing castle guard at Dover.

The parish of Little Brickhill is 1,367 acres in extent, and has a population of 312. It is bounded on the north, by Bow Brickhill; on the south, by Great Brickhill; on the east, by Bedfordshire; and on the west, by Fenny Stratford. It is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, rural deanery of Bletchley, arch deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The village, which is pleasantly situated on a commanding eminence, is distant 2 miles south-east from Fenny Stratford and 9 miles south-east from Stony Stratford, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles south from Newport Pagnell, 3 miles south-west from Woburn, and 6 miles north from Leighton Buzzard. It lies on the old Roman road (Watling Street) which enters the Hundreds here on its way from London. The place consists of one long street with some good modern villas and old-world residences. Before the introduction of railways, between thirty and forty coaches, and a number of waggons, passed daily through the village. A silent witness of the glories of the bygone coaching days, is the large white

* Mr. Cooke was formerly of Exeter College, and had employed several of the latter years of his life in collecting materials for a history of Buckinghamshire, which had assumed considerable proportions. This manuscript collection was not included in the sale of Mr. Cooke's library, on 9 August 1824, but for some reason, passed into the hands of George Lipscomb, M.D., his executor, who published them as his history of Bucks.

house at the top of the street and on the south side. This was known as the George Inn. Here royalty have sojourned at various times, and here too, the horses were changed for many of the noted coaches that plied between London and Birmingham.

The old-world house, on the north side of the street, is call the Malting, and sometimes the Assize House. This latter title is considered by some as being very improbable, for two other houses, at least, had quite as good a claim to the honour of being so important a place in the township, viz., the George Inn, which is more probable, and the old house that occupied the site of the present handsome villa residence of Major Finlay, the lord of the manor.

Lipscomb thinks that the place acquired the distinctive appellation of "Little" from the comparative small extent of the lands in the parish, rather than the size of the village, "which," he says, "although it was, during many ages, the place for holding the county assizes, has no indications of having, at any time, been larger than at present."

The Assizes and general Gaol Delivery for Bucks were held here at different times between 1443 and 1638, according to Willis; "being taken as the first town in the Norfolk circuit" says Lipscomb, "probably for the convenience of the judges." During the reigns of Elizabeth and James, Little Brickhill seems to have been considered as the assize town, and it is so marked in Saxton's map, published in 1574. The last court of assize held here was in 1638. Between the year 1561 and 1620, the names of forty-two executed criminals appear among the burials in the parish register. On 26 March 1595, no less than ten persons were executed and buried here. The gallows is said to have stood on the heath or common, according to Lysons' about three furlongs out of the village on the road to Woburn. Elections, as well as other meetings for the county were also convened here.

There was formerly a weekly market here, on Thursdays, which seems to have been originally granted to John de Gatesden, in 1228. It was confirmed in 1257 to Philip Lovel; in 1284 to Hugh de Audley; and in 1441, to Humphrey Stafford, earl of Buckingham. The charter of 1228 grants a fair for three days on the feast of St. Mary Magdalen; that of 1257, a fair for three days, at the festival of St. Giles; that in 1284, a fair at the decollation of St. John the Baptist; and that in 1441, two fairs, viz., on the feast of SS. Philip and James, and on that of St. Luke. The market has long since been discontinued.

The locality of Little Brickhill teams with subjects of interest to the lovers of botany, entomology, ornithology, etc., as several of the best species of British flowers, ferns, butterflies, and birds abound here.

Manorial History of Little Brickhill.

In Domesday book, it is represented, that Blackman, a man of earl Tosti, held this manor before the Conquest, and might sell it; that, after the survey, it belonged to the bishop of Liseaux, was included in

Moselai Hundred, and held as five hides under the bishop by Robert. The extent of the lands and possessions is thus particularised : In the demesne, one hide and seven villeins, with three bordars, had three ploughs. There was one servant, pasture for four teams, wood for one hundred and fifty hogs ; and it had always been estimated at three pounds per annum.

If it may be conjectured, that the Saxon and Norman possessors held this manor in connection with their estates in the adjacent parishes, these four hides were perhaps the western part of Little Brickhill ; and the lands of bishop Baieux, which are described in the survey as comprised in Bonestou Hundred, were towards the south-western angle, perhaps adjacent to Great Brickhill ?

The lands of the bishop Baieux, in Bonestou Hundred, had been the manor of Alwin, a man of Estan, who had not the power of alienating it from the local tenure of the manor. It was held as one hide by Turstin under the bishop. The land was sufficient for one plough ; but there was none kept there, unless by the three villeins, and one bordar upon it ; and it was worth only fourteen shillings ; although in the time of king Edward, it was estimated at twenty shillings.

After the forfeiture of the bishop of Baieux, this manor became parcel of the barony of Maminot, and was so held by the service of castle-guard at Dover. It passed, with lands in Kent, to Robert de Turnham, who took his name from the place of his residence, in the reign of Henry II. Robert de Turnham was the founder of the priory of Combwell, in the parish of Gothurst, in Kent, to which he gave the church of Little Brickhill, and died before the end of the reign of Henry II., leaving two sons, Robert and Stephen. The former attended Richard I., into the Holy Land, and died in 1211, possessed of this manor.

Stephen, his brother, succeeded him ; but lived under great suspicions on the part of the king. He had a son Henry ; and king John in 1212, issued his peremptory mandate to Stephen de Turnham, that he should not suffer any person to have access to his son, who did not produce the king's special letters for that purpose ; but he died before his father.

Stephen died in 1215, not without issue, as Hasted supposes, for he left several daughters. Mabilia, the eldest, represented that her sisters were not willing to take upon themselves the debts due by their father to the crown, but that she would be responsible for the same, upon having seisin of her father's lands ; wherefore the king's writ was issued for putting her into possession. It is probable that the debts were not discharged by her alone ; for, two years afterwards, the lands of Stephen de Turnham, in Brickhill, were granted to Adam de Bendeng, for the use of himself and Alice his wife, Ralph de Hays and Beatrice his wife, and Mabilia de Cotton, who may be supposed the three daughters of Stephen de Turnham.

Under these co-heiresses, Little Brickhill was held by John de Gatesden, as their subfeudatory tenant ; who in 1227, had a grant of a Thursday market here, and a fair on the eve-day and morrow of St. Mary Magdalen.

In 1252, a fine was levied between Philip Lovel, querent, and Nicholas de Wancy and Alice his wife, deforcients, of the manor of Little Brickhill. This Alice was probably one of the heiresses of the Turnhams.

In 1257, Philip Lovel had a grant of free warren in Brickhill and Potsgrave, and also of a weekly market on Thursday, at Brickhill; and a fair every year, on the eve-day and morrow of St. Giles. He died in 1258.

In 1284, Hugh de Audley, junr., and Margaret his wife, had a grant of a Thursday market, and a fair on the eve-day and morrow of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, at Little Brickhill.

In 1441, Humphrey, duke of Buckingham, had a grant of a Thursday market at Little Brickhill, and two fairs yearly; one on the eve-day of St. Philip and St. James 12th May, and the other on the 29th of October, the eve and day of St. Luke the Evangelist.

In 1522, Henry VIII. granted to Sir Henry Marney, knight, and to the heirs of his body, inter alia, the manor of Little Brickhill, late the possession of Edward, duke of Buckingham, attainted; also a market and two fairs.

In 1526, the king granted to William Carey, one of the esquires of the king's body, inter alia, the manor of Little Brickhill, late the possession of the late John Marney. He died 22 June 1529, leaving Henry, his son and heir, then two years old; and in 1552, Edward VI. reciting the grant to William Carey, deceased, granted the said premises to Henry Carey, his son, and to his heirs for ever, to be held by the service of one knight's fee. The same year, the king granted his license to Henry Carey aforesaid, to alienate this manor to Robert Brocas, who died possessed thereof, 6 August 1558; as did his son Bernard Brocas, 20 March 1589; leaving issue, Pexal Brocas, then twenty-one years old. On Sunday, 24 October 1613, this Sir Pexal Brocas, knight, did open penance at St. Paul's Cross. He stood in a white sheet and held a stick in his hand; having been convicted, before the high commissioners, of secret and notorious adultery with divers women. Sir Pexal Brocas, lord of the manor, died 13 August 1630, and was buried the following day.

In 1684, Sir Thomas Abdy was lord of the manor of Little Brickhill. He married Mary, daughter of Lucas Corsellis, of London, merchant; and had issue by her, Sir Anthony Abdy, who succeeded to the title of baronet, and the estate. He sold this manor to Sir Charles Duncombe, knight, and alderman of London, about 1696, and died 27 April 1704.

Sir Charles Duncombe, knight, died possessed of this manor, 9 April 1711, and was succeeded by his nephew, Anthony Duncombe, in 1735. It subsequently became the property of George Henry Rose, from whom it descended to the right hon. Sir George Henry Rose; it subsequently passed to Lord Strathnairn, Admiral Douglas, and Major Alexander Finlay, the present owner of the manor. The manorial rights have ceased.

Sir Hugh Henry Rose, G.C.B. (created in 1858, son of Sir G. H. Rose, was a major-general in the army; he received the K.C.B. in 1855,

for his services as principal commissioner at the head quarters of the French army during the war in the east; was created commander of the Legion of Honour in 1856; and received the thanks of parliament for his services in suppressing the Indian Mutiny in 1859.

Ecclesiastical History of Little Brickhill.

Robert de Turneham, or Thornehan, in the reign of Henry II., founded the Augustine priory of Combwell, in Kent; and bestowed upon it, amongst other possessions, the church of St. Mary, of Brickhill, with all its appurtenances.

Stephen de Turneham, his second surviving son, afterwards confirmed his father's donations.

Henry VIII., by patent, 26 April 1542, granted to Sir John Gage, of Combwell priory, in Kent, the rectory, church, and advowson of Little Brickhill; reciting, that they had been granted in the preceding year to Sir John Baker and Edward Gage.

In 1732, the arch-deacon of Bucks held his visitation at Little Brickhill, for the rural deaneries of Newport Pagnell and Buckingham.

In 1796, under an Inclosure Act, about six hundred acres of commonable lands were allotted and divided between the lord of the manor and the See of Canterbury, in right of an impropriation, by Richard Miles, then leasee, and John Burton Watkin, clerk, then styled vicar.

The glebe consists of eight acres of pasture or meadow, and fifty acres of arable land. The living is exonerated from land tax, amongst the smaller benefices, having been previously assessed at £7/2/4½ per annum upon £71/1/8 annual value. The value of the living at the present time is £200 per annum. The patronage is now vested in the bishop of Oxford, who gained it through the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, they having received it by an exchange with the Archbishop of Canterbury, in whose See it was situated.

Vicars of Little Brickhill.

JOHN DE DAVENTRE, presented 1227, by the priory and convent of Combwell, to whom the church of St. Mary of Brickhill had been confirmed

WILLIAM died vicar 1269.

PHILIP DE STAUNTON, instituted 30 June 1257. He was, 7 September 1287, made bishop of Llandaff; and died in 1296.

WILLIAM, the successor of Philip, is mentioned as having prosecuted John de Pydington, of Ambrosden, Oxfordshire. in a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court, not within that jurisdiction; and the latter obtained a prohibition against him in 1292, by precept to the sheriff of Bucks. He died in 1312.

ROBERT DE DODINGTON, instituted 30 August 1312; resigned in 1323; and was succeeded by

WALTER DE BUCKINGHAM, 25 June 1323; died in 1336.

PHILIP DE BRETFOED, instituted 29 June 1336; and at his death,

WALTER ATTE OKE was presented 27 May 1338; who dying was succeeded by

THOMAS POWER, presented June 1349, and on his resignation.

RALPH WEST was instituted 10 March 1349.

WALTER MITCHES, resigned in 1366.

THOMAS DYER instituted 29 September 1366.

THOMAS WARD resigned 1393.

JOHN WALTON instituted 7 February 1393.

JOHN MERSHE, presented 28 May 1400; exchanged for St. Leonard's Hospital in Cotton End, Northampton, with

JOHN ATTE WOODE, alias WHADDON, 16 September, 1402; who resigned on exchange.

SIMON CONET, presented 5 March 1403.

RICHARD BRAY resigned in 1455.

ROGER TAYLOR, presented 21 August 1455; but resigned, and

HUMPHREY GRAINGER was instituted 23 January 1465. At his death.

JOHN STEPHENS succeeded 25 September 1487.

WILLIAM HARMSTHWAYT, instituted 5 July 1502, on whose resignation,

ROBERT CROSTON was instituted 10 May 1504.

RALPH TICKHILL, LL.B., presented 12 August 1522, by the prior of Leeds convent in Kent, by grant from Combwell. On his decease,

SIMON BIRDE was instituted 12 February 1527, on the presentation of the convent of Combwell; and at his death.

WILLIAM JENNINGS, 4 December 1537, by Thomas Culpeper (to whom the advowson had been granted, either by lease from Combwell priory, or by patent from Henry VIII.); and resigning

JOHN HALLIFAX was presented 16 July 1538, by Thomas Culpeper. He resigned and

THOMAS HUNTER was presented 20 August 1539, by Thomas Culpeper, the younger. He was living in 1551; and

THOMAS SMITH was presented in 1552, as was

THADDEUS MAGARLEY, 14 September 1564, by Matthew (Parker), archbishop of Canterbury.

NICHOLAS PALMER, presented 22 November 1566.

JOHN MORRIS, presented 8 April 1568; and on his resignation.

RICHARD BARTON was instituted 20 August 1569; who was at his death, succeeded by

RICHARD MAIDENHEAD, 4 June 1570.

HUMPHRY WILLIAMS, presented 23 October 1575, by queen Elizabeth. He resigned; and was succeeded by

EDWARD GOLDINGHAM, 26 May 1578, on the appointment of Matthew, archbishop of Canterbury; and resigning,

THOMAS LEWIS succeeded 10 October 1579, on the same appointment; and was buried here.

HENRY SAGE, M.A., admitted 11 September 1598, on the presentation of John (Whitgift), archbishop of Canterbury; and on his cession.

JOHN BLAND, deacon, 17 December 1602, by the same patron. At his death,

THOMAS COLLINS succeeded 23 November 1603; and on his resignation,

THOMAS MAIDWELL, M.A., was instituted 23 May 1604, on the presentation of the king; and resigned in favour of

FRANCIS CHARLET, 16 October 1606. He was also rector of Great Brickhill; and was succeeded by

FRANCIS CLITHERO, B.A., 30 July 1618; who was buried here 29 April 1659, as had been Mary his wife, and others of his family.

SAMUEL HART appointed 10 April 1661, by William Juxon, archbishop of Canterbury. He was living here 1663, and was afterwards rector of Drayton Parslow. Bishop Juxon was the one who attended Charles I., upon the scaffold, and in acknowledgement of the regard, Charles held the bishop for his attention, he presented him with the jewel of the Order of the Garter, two seals, and a pattern gold coin, which he had in his possession at this final and tragic scene of the great Civil War. This coin, no doubt meant for a five pound piece, is a remarkable and unique relic of the Stuarts. It was retained in the family for many years when it was bought by Lieut. Colonel John Drummond, from the Rev, Commeline, Senior-Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, who was a collateral descendant of bishop Juxon. When Drummond's collection of coins was sold at the rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, the well known auctioneers

in London, it realised the sum of two hundred and sixty pounds ; it again came under the hammer and was bought by Mr Montagu for three hundred and forty five pounds ; at his death, it again, for the last time came before the general public for sale and was bought by Messrs. Spink and Son, numismatists, of Piccadilly, London, for the fabulous price of seven hundred and seventy pounds. This numismatic gem has now passed into its last and fitting resting place in the National collection. He was succeeded by

JOHN SMITH, 6 November 1666. He resigned, and

HUMPHREY FRANK, M.A., was instituted 13 February 1668.

THOMAS HARWOOD, M.A., admitted curate 13 November 1672.

GEORGE BADDY, 19 May 1674. He went to Ireland about 1692.

HENRY HARDACRE, about 1694.

WILLIAM HATTON, B.A., admitted curate 29 August 1696.



The Jaxon Medal, worth £770.

Presented by King Charles I. to Bishop Jaxon on the scaffold just before his execution.

JOHN HARRISON, 1700 ; occurs in 1710.

WILLIAM CAWNE, 1710 ; died 1716 ; and was succeeded by

FRANCIS CONQUIT, 1716, who resigned on being presented to Tarring, in Sussex ; and was succeeded by

THOMAS MARTIN, M.A., 1717, who was buried here 18 November 1747, as had been John, his son, 20 October 1733. His daughter, Anna Maria, was married here 12 June 1738, to the Rev. Thomas Sturges, rector of Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire. Mr. Martin, held the mastership of the endowed school, but mis-conducting himself, the school was laid aside, yet he continued to receive the stipend out of the estate, until having disagreed with the parishioners, they encouraged the non-payment of the salary, and the charity was sunk, and remained unaccounted for during many years. The estate charged with this payment was the property of a Mr. Ashwell, of Leighton Buzzard, whose son succeeded him in the possession of it.

FRANCIS WYAT, M.A., presented 3 April 1748. He was also vicar of Bromham, in Bedfordshire ; and was living here in 1760.

JOHN DOLMAN, presented 6 November 1768, on the presentation of George III.

MICHAEL WOODHOUSE, or WOODWARD, was also rector of Great Woolstone, and in the commission of the peace. According to Cole's MSS., called rector of Bow Brickhill ; and stated to have died from a fall off his horse a few days before Saturday 16 October 1779. He was buried here ; being succeeded by

JOHN BURTON WATKIN, 20 October 1779, appointed by the archbishop of Canterbury. He resigned ; and was succeeded by

EDWARD JONES, M.A., 20 April 1814, who had been previously assistant curate to Mr. Watkin.

JAMES CHARLES LETT COURT, after a ministration of about nine years, resigned this living in October 1860, on his appointment to the rectory of Widdington, in Essex; and on his leaving his old parishioners, they presented him with an address and testimonial of esteem. The latter consisted a sum of about ten pounds for the purchase of a silver inkstand, as a token of the subscribers' most affectionate regard. He was succeeded by

THOMAS PYM WILLIAMSON, instituted in 1860.

WILLIAM BICKHAM BANTING, M.A., of Brasenose college, Oxford, was presented by Dr. Mackarness, in October 1886.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Little Brickhill.

The parish church stands at the east end of the village, on the brow of the hill, at the junction of the road from Woburn, with the great Chester road, or Watling Street, and is a neat edifice, which has been patched up at various periods. It consists of a small square tower, about fifty feet high, a nave and chancel, having a south aisle contiguous to both, and a south porch. The tower is supported by large buttresses, and contains a clock and four bells, inscribed:

First: M 9 C I n n n n n n n n.

Second: A.D. CONVOCANDVM CÆTVM 1639. I. K.

Third: CHAUNDLER MADE ME 1669.

Sanctus: Blank.



LITTLE BRICKHILL CHURCH.

The whole of the windows, and the north and east walls of the chancel are modern; the best window is in the west face of the tower. The nave and aisle are divided by four pointed arches supported by octagon pillars; the ceiling of the nave is plaster; the pulpit and font are plain. A pointed arch admits to the chancel. The chapel on the south side is used as a vestry. There was formerly a north aisle, anciently, doubtless, a chantry chapel, which was at length converted into a school; and in 1703 was, with part of the chancel, blown down by a high wind. The aisle was not restored, but the chancel was repaired with brick and tiled, principally, through the munifi-

cence of Browne Willis, the antiquary, who was lord of the manors of Blechley, Water Eaton, and Fenny Stratford. On the right of the nave, near the chancel arch, is a piscina, and there is another in the south chapel. In this chapel there are good mullioned windows, and there is a curious achievement upon the east wall which is quite unique in this part of the country. The arms are draped by an alderman's robe, below which is the following: "Here beneath lyeth interred the Body of William Benett, sonne and heyre vnto William Benett, of the city of Chester, Alderman & iustice of Peace, who was maior of y^e sayd city

1652; he dyed in this towne in his returne from London to Chester on y^e 14th day of March 1658."

A bracket, originally used for either an image of the Virgin, or a lamp, is in the east wall of the chapel.

On the south wall of the aisle is a small brass measuring $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 10 inches, with a neat tooled border, having a cherub in the top corners, and an hour glass in the bottom corners; whilst at the foot of the inscription is a skull, of rude design. The rhyming inscription reads:

SACRED

to y^e Mem. of M^r R^d SELING,
Died y^e 9th July 1693, Et. 22.
Under this weeping marble lies,
the knowing head y^e honest hart,
Fare blood & curteous hand & every part
of ROB. SELING, all with one stone content,
Though each deserv'd a severall monument
he was (beleeeve me Reader) for tis rare
Vertuous tho. young & learned tho. an heeire
Not with his blood, or Natures gifts content,
he paid them both there tribute w^{ch} they lent
his Ancesters in hum fix ther pride,
so wth him all reviv'd, wth him all died.
O cruel death, as heare at once to bee
the ruine of a family.
learne reader heare tho. long thy line hath stood
time breeds destempers in y^e noblest blood.
learn (reader) hear to what our glory com^e
hears no destinction twixt y^e house
and tombe.

There are memorials in the church of members of the families of Baker, Jones, Martin, Seling, Williamson, etc.

The east window of stained glass is in memory of Frances, widow of the Right Hon. Sir George Henry Rose, G.C.H., clerk of the parliaments and mother of Lord Strathnairn, G.C.B., and his brother Sir William Rose, K.C.B.; she died 12 October 1861. The other memorial windows are to the late Rev. Thomas Pym Williamson and his wife. The handsome and massive brass lectern and candle brackets were presented to the church by Mrs. Chesterton, as were the seven hanging brass lamps in the chancel by Mrs. Finlay, wife of the present lord of the manor.

In the exterior of the north wall of the nave is an ancient piscina.

In the church yard, on a tomb near the south porch, is the following inscription: Here lieth the body of True Blue, who departed this life January y^e 17, 172 $\frac{1}{2}$, aged 57. Also the body of Eleanor, y^e wife of True Blue, who departed this life January y^e 21, 172 $\frac{3}{4}$, aged 59.

The singularity of this name has occasioned much curiosity; but no information can be obtained, besides that of True Blue having been a stranger, who settled here, and acquired some property, which after his decease was disposed of. It has been conjectured that he lived under a feigned name. One Hercules True, about 1645, kept a house

at Windsor, to which deer stealers were accustomed to resort; and he uttered violet threats against a person, whose son, having been killed in attempting to resist the deer stealers in the Great Park; Thomas Shemonds prosecuted the murderers, and True declared he would knock his brains out, and is believed to have afterwards absconded.

The style in which the years, in the above inscription are given, is a curious instance depicting the manner so often in vogue at that period. Until 1752, when the new style was adopted, the legal year of England commenced on the 25th of March; prior to 1752, the two concurring dates were usually expressed in the form of a fraction, as above, in the unit's place. This system is often made use of in the parish registers of Little Brickhill.

The register begins in 1559; and contains amongst others, the following entries:

Yugh Spencer, servant to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Huntingdon, 8 Feb. 1612, killed by a fall from a waggon.

Agnes (?) Potter of Dunstable, wounded at the Battle of Edge Hill, buried 30 Nov. 1642.

Mr. Williams, a soldier of the King's Army, was slain by the Parliament soldiers, 27 Aug., and buried here the same day, 1644.

James y^e Son of Charles ffabre. Chirrigion, and Mary his wife, was Borne y^e 27th february and was Baptized March y^e 22th 1701.

From the year 1559 to 1621 the register is a copy from a more ancient one, now lost, and is all in one hand, after which it continues in the regular manner and in the hand writings of the period.

Little Brickhill Vicarage.



LITTLE BRICKHILL VICARAGE.

the surrounding neighbourhood are extensive and very fine.

The vicarage stands upon the same ridge as the church and is situated near the east end of the sacred edifice. It is a good building in the Domestic Gothic style of architecture, with mullioned windows, and is surrounded by well-kept grounds and gardens. The lawn is ornamented with ancient elm trees, and a good selection of shrubs and evergreens. It was built by the ecclesiastical commissioners prior to their transferring the living to the Oxford diocese. The views from here, of

Little Brickhill XVIIIth Century Token.

Little Brickhill shows itself to have kept pace with the times in the latter part of the XVIIIth Century, for one of its tradesmen issued a halfpenny trade token, which was equivalent to the regal silver coins

of that value that were then in use, and which, being so small, were frequently the cause of considerable loss to those who handled them. The government, or mint authorities, being so lax in complying with the public want, in the matter of small change, the influential tradesmen took it upon themselves to mint, or rather strike, their own money, which was, though illégál, very useful.



The obverse and reverse of the Brickhill halfpenny are as illustrated, and the inscriptions are :

Ob. * CHARLES * LORD * IN—A man making candles.

R. * LITTLE * BRICK * HILL *—HIS HALFE PENNY 1669.

The name of Lord in the parish registers is spelt *Laud* in every case. The entries are so meagre that it is impossible to gain any knowledge of the family of which there were evidently two branches. Whether this Charles Lord was son of William or Richard, is beyond discovery, as his name does not appear in these ancient records. The items inscribed are :

- Baptised. 1638. Mary y^e daughter of Risgard Laud and Winifrida, May 6^o
 1647. Richard y^e sonne of Richard Laud & Winifrede, uxor June 11^o
 1648. Richard y^e sonne of Richard Laud & Winifrida, uxor feeb. 4^o
 1652. Sarah y^e daughter of William Laud and Mary, uxor feeb. 2^o
 1653. Winifride y^e daughter of Richard Laud & Winifride, uxor Decemb. 12^o

Little Brickhill Charities.

The school was endowed with £5 per annum, left by Robert Seling, who died here in 1694, for the education of eight children. The land from which the money is derived is situated at Leighton Buzzard. For a considerable time the option of teaching was given to the vicar. The charity commissioners state that the donor of this charity is unknown.

The Church and Poor Land consisted of land, the rents of which are expended partly on the poor, and partly on the repairs of the church. The cottages were sold in 1873, for £340, and the land in 1888, for £500, the amounts being invested in consols.

Anthony Abdy, citizen and alderman of London, gave by indenture in 1636, certain lands and tenements, the rents or profits to be given in bread to twelve poor widows and widowers every Sunday at the church, after the sermon. The cottages and gardens, the property of this charity, were sold in 1891-2, and the sum of £308/10/3 was in-

vested in consols, yielding an annual income of £8/5/-

When the parish was enclosed under the Act of 1796, an allotment of fifteen acres was awarded to the poor in lieu of common rights. The income from this land is £16 per annum.

C. Penrose, in 1856, left the sum of £100, invested in the three per cent. consols, the dividends to be expended in the purchase of blankets, to be given to the poor.



GREAT BRICKHILL.



BRICKHILL MAGNA, or Great Brickhill, comprises 2,383 acres with a population of

522. It is bounded on the north-east, by Little Brickhill; on the south-east, by Soulbury; and on the west, by Water Eaton, Stoke Hammond, and Soulbury. The soil is principally a dark brown sand, with a small quantity of clay; towards the river Ousel or Lovat the meadows are rich. The surface is broken into bold inequalities, lofty hillocks, and narrow chasms or ravines, which render its appearance, in some parts of the parish, very picturesque. Its name perhaps, is to denote the greater extent of the hill on which the village is built, to the site of the adjacent parishes of Bow Brickhill and Little Brickhill.

The village, which is situated three miles south-east from Fenny Stratford, and ten miles from Newport Pagnell, is scattered, and contains many neat brick cottages, having small gardens in front. The view from about the centre of it, is varied and charming.

The Baptists here, have a fair sized chapel, built in 1812, which is capable of seating 100 persons. The Wesleyan Methodists have a small place of worship, erected in 1877.

Great Brickhill is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, rural deanery of Blechley, arch-deaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The notorious Hugh Peters, who rode triumphing when Charles I. was brought in captivity into London by his rebellious subjects, about twelve months before his conviction of high treason and execution at Charing Cross, 16 October 1660, was reported to have died at Brickhill.

Whether this rumour was purposely circulated, in order that he might elude the fate which seemed to await him, or for what other reason, is unknown. His connection with this place is conjectured to have arisen from his nephew having intruded into the rectory. Hugh was a native of Fowey, in Cornwall; educated at St. John's, Cambridge; and said to have been a buffoon in Seakespear's company. The story of his death appeared in the *Weekly Post*, No. 15, from Tuesday 9th

August to Tuesday 16th August 1659, and was as follows: "Mr Hugh Peters being full of distraction and confusion in his judgement for some certain hours on his death-bed, yet it pleased the Lord a little before he departed this life to work a great dispensation in him declaring that he had an earnest desire in his lifetime to promote the work of Jesus Christ; so he desired the like now at his death, that the good spirit of King Jesus might reign in the hearts of all his people and subjects; upon uttering which words, he immediately changed, and crying 'Lord Jesus receive my spirit' gave up the ghost, ending his days at Brickhill."

Manorial History of Great Brickhill.

Under king Edward the Confessor, Tosti, earl of Northumberland, held this manor; and after the Conquest, it was bestowed by the new sovereign on Hugh, earl of Chester, under whom it was holden by a feudatory tenant called William, who was taxed at nine hides. The land was for nine plough-teams; in the demesne were four, and sixteen villeins, with six bordars, had six. Here were six servants, and two mills of thirty shillings rent; pasture for ten teams; wood for one hundred hogs; altogether worth £9; when he first held it £7; and in the time of king Edward, £10. Who this William, subfeudatory at Brickhill, was, or how this manor passed, in the reigns immediately after the Conquest, has not been ascertained; but in the time of Richard 1., William de la Rochel, or Rockeley, had considerable possessions here; for in the first year of king John, William the son of Richard, paid rent at the Exchequer, for the farm of Brickhill, late the lands of William de la Rochel.

In the year of 1206, the sovereign, king John, gave the lands of John de Humez, or Humet (son of Jordan de Humet, constable of Normandy, by Agnes, daughter of Jordan de Say), which he had forfeited on his being found in arms against the king, to Henry de Grey; who being dead in the third year of king Henry III., Richard de Grey, his son and heir, then obtained a mandate from the king, to have full seisin of the lands of his father. Richard de Grey married Lucy, the daughter and heir of John de Humez; and on the 8th of June, obtained a writ to the sheriff of Norfolk, to give seisin to him and Lucy his wife, of the lands which John de Humez, her father, held of the king in capite and to restore any lands which had been seized after the death of John Humez, to make inquisition thereupon, and to return it to Hubert de Burg, the king's justicear.

In this reign also, lands in Great Brickhill were in the possession of Robert Bardolph, a Norman, who revolted from his sovereign; whereupon, Annora his wife the daughter of Henry de Boels, gave them to John de Boels, her brother, a son of Henry de Boels, who had been steward to the Beauchamps, baron of Bedford. This Annora had given one half of the church of Brickhill, in 1205, to the priory and convent of Dunstable, by a charter. Hearne calls her Anor Maumang, and in another place Morbanc; but this must have been a

misprint of the letters for Annora Bardolf, the letters M. and B. being frequently mistaken for one another by the transcribers of ancient records. The manor had been divided between two descendants of the original feudatory tenant, and one part had come to William de la Rochel, and the other to Robert Bardolph; however, the result of these possessions being in the hands of the revolted Normans was that the manor and lordships reverted to the lord of the fee, the earl of Chester, or was granted to him by the crown. And on the partition of the earldom of Chester among female heirs, at the beginning of the reign of Henry III., the portion of that earldom which was in Buckinghamshire formed part of the purparty of the countess of Arundel, and passed to the earl her husband, in her right; and it is stated, in the Testa de Nevil, that the countess of Warwick (Margery, sister of Thomas de Newburgh) held Great Brickhill of the earl of Arundel, by the service of two knight's fees.

Great Brickhill did not long continue in the possession of the countess of Warwick's family, for in 1265, Sir John de Grey, knight, is recorded to be the lord of Great Brickhill; and in the same year he died possessed of this manor; leaving Reginald his son and heir, who was his successor.

Reginald de Grey, whose chief residence was at Waterhall near Fenny Stratford, continued lord of this manor till 1307, when he died possessed of it, leaving John de Grey, his eldest son and heir his successor. This John de Grey, lord Grey of Wilton and Ruthyn, in right of his father, and lord of Dyffrein Cloyd, in right of his mother, had married for his first wife Anne, daughter of William, lord Ferrars of Groby, who died before 1311 and by whom he had issue. He married for his second wife Maud, daughter of Ralph Bassett, of Drayton, on which second marriage he levied a fine of the manor of Great Brickhill, and the manors of Simpson, Snelston, West Bletchley, and Stoke Hammond, and of the lordships of Dyffrein Cloyd and Ruthyn in Wales, to make a settlement of this part of his estates, on his issue by Maud Bassett. He died in 1323, possessed of this manor, which, until the others mentioned in the fine, descended to Roger, his oldest son by his second marriage, who became lord of Great Brickhill, Simpson, Stoke Hammond, and West Bletchley, in this county, and of his estates in Wales. On the death of his father, this Roger was summoned to parliament as lord Grey de Ruthyn. He was the first of a series of barons, who are now represented under that summons by Barbara Yelverton, the only grand-daughter and heir of the last earl of Sussex. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John, lord Hastings, of Bergavenny, by whom he had several children; and died in 1353, possessed of the manor of Great Brickhill.

John, his eldest son had performed signal services in the wars of France, and had been employed upon several important embassies, but died without issue before his father; whereupon Reginald, the second son, succeeded to the estates and honours of his father, at his death, and had summons to parliament as lord Grey of Ruthyn, from that time until 1388; and then died possessed of this manor.

By Eleanor his wife, daughter of John, lord Strange, of Knockyn, he had a daughter, Eleanor, who held Great Brickhill in dower, till her death in 1395.

Reginald his son, who succeeded him, had much contention with Owen Glendower, by whom he was at length taken prisoner, and compelled to pay a great sum for his redemption. He had also a suit in the court of chivalry with Sir Edward Hastings, touching the title of lord Hastings, and bearing the arms of that family; which suit was adjudged in his favour. He had summons to parliament till 1439, and then died possessed of this manor. He was twice married, and had issue by both his wives.

John de Grey of Ruthyn (before mentioned), his eldest son by his first wife, was a person of considerable eminence, and a knight of the Garter; he had distinguished himself in the battles of Agincourt and Vernouil, in both of which his father was also present; and Edmund his son succeeded the grandfather, as lord Grey de Ruthyn and baron Hastings, and was afterwards, by king Edward iv., in 1465, created earl of Kent; the earldom being confirmed to him by letters patent, both by Richard III., and Henry VII. The first earl of Kent of the family of De Grey, died in 1489 possessed of this manor of Great Brickhill. He had married Katherine, daughter of Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, and had issue by her four sons, of whom, Anthony, the eldest, died in his lifetime.

George, his second son, succeeded him in the earldom of Kent; and had this manor of Great Brickhill, which he held until his death in 1505.

He had been twice married; by his first wife, Anne, daughter of Richard Wydeville, earl Rivers, and widow of William, viscount Bourchier, he had issue a son, named Richard; his second wife was Katherine second daughter of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, by whom he had three sons; Sir Henry Grey of Wrest, George, and Anthony; and a daughter Anne, married to lord John Hussy. He was succeeded in his honours and in this manor, by his son Richard, the only issue of his first marriage; who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Hussey, knight, but had no issue by her. He was much addicted to gaming, and wasted his estates in profligacy; and dying in London, in 1524, was buried at Whitefriars. Before 1514, he had sold this manor to Sir Charles Somerset, a natural son of Henry, duke of Somerset; who was created, by Henry VIII., earl of Worcester. He died possessed of the manor of Great Brickhill in 1525, and was buried in St George's chapel at Windsor Castle, according to his will.

It appears, from an inquisition taken of the family of Hanchet, lords of Caldecot, in Newport Pagnell, that they held lands in Brickhill, under the earl of Worcester, as the manor of Great Brickhill.

Sir George Somerset, younger son of the earl of Worcester, by his second marriage, possessed this manor under the will of his father; and sold it in 1527, together with the patronage of the church, to William Duncombe, gent, of Ivinghoe-Aston. In 1548, in Trinity Term, a fine was passed between William Duncombe and others, querents, and Sir George Somerset, knight, deforciant, of the manor of Great Brickhill,

common of pasture in Great and Little Brickhill, and Soulbury; and the advowson of the church of Great Brickhill, as the right of William Duncombe.

In the Civil War, the earl of Essex as general of the parliamentary army was stationed here, and gave the following account of his proceedings, in a letter to the speaker of the House of Lords :

Brickhill Magna,
9 July 1643.

MY LORD, I would now have given you the true relation of the skirmish on Sunday last, between some of our Horse and the Enemy's near Buckingham; but Sir Philip Stapylton and Col. Goodwin being then upon the place, I refer the relation thereof unto them. Since when, being informed that the King had sent more forces to Buckingham, to maintain that place, bring those parts into contribution, and give us battle there; hereupon I advanced with the army towards that town; where the enemy staid till the army came within two miles of them, and then made haste away towards Banbury; notwithstanding they had persuaded the people that they would not quit the place till they had beat me out of the country. I then understanding that they were fled, held it not fit to go to the town with my army, but sent Col. Middleton, with some horse, to clear the town and coast, which he did; and then advised where to quarter with most conveniency to our army, and most ready for the enemy, the Queen's forces being like to join with them very suddenly. That our army might the better secure the Parliament and the City of London, and the country adjacent, and be more safely supplied with money from London, and lie most conveniently to join with the forces with the Lord Grey, in Northamptonshire, I did march to Great Brickhill, as the most fit place for all purposes. The enemy's chief strength being in horse, and this army neither recruited with horse, nor arms, nor saddles, it is impossible to keep the country from being plundered, nor to fight with them, but when and where they list; we being forced when we move to march with the whole army, which can be but slow marches; so that the country suffers much wrong, and the cries of the poor people are infinite. If it were thought fit to send to His Majesty to have peace, with the settling of religion, the laws and liberties of the subject and bring to just trial those chief delinquents that have brought all these mischiefs to both kingdoms; and as my Lord of Bristol spake in Parliament, how he may be secured to have these things performed hereafter, or else, if his Majesty shall please to absent himself, there may be a day set to give a period to all these unhappy distractions by a battle (which when and where they shall chuse who may be thought anyway indifferent) I shall be ready to perform that duty I owe to you, and the propositions to be agreed upon between his Majesty and the Parliament, may be sent to such an indifferent place that both armies may be drawn near, the one to the other; so that if peace be not concluded, it might be ended with the sword. No officer of the army to be of such committee, nor no intercourse to be between them.

My Lord, I am, your Lordship's humble Servant,
ESSEX.

Another letter was also addressed to the speaker, from the council of war assembled at Brickhill, further complaining of the condition of the parliamentary forces stationed here; and read in the House on the 22nd of July, being Saturday, after a solemn fast ordered by parliament.

Brickhill, 20 July.

MY LORD, We have, after divers addresses to the Houses, with patience expected recruits and supplies of men, horses, saddles, and arms, to enable us to do the state that service which we most heartily wish we could perform; and we have in modesty forborne to press the necessity of the armies upon your Lordships, so often as the condition thereof required, till now we are driven to that exigent that we can be no longer

silent ; we must therefore, to discharge that trust reposed in us, make known to your Lordships, that the army is much decayed, very suddenly, partly by the mortality and sickness which hath befallen us, and which lieth still upon us ; and partly for want of pay and clothing, our soldiers being grown bare, and many of them almost naked ; and the running away of our soldiers is not the least occasion of our weakness, who are encouraged to leave us out of a report of raising new armies, wherein they hope they shall be entertained. We held it now (not ?) fit to make public the particular condition of the army ; not knowing whether it will be more pleasing to their Lordships, to refer the information thereof to such as shall be appointed by your Lordships to receive the particular relation thereof from those who are herewith sent to give a full satisfaction therein ; but this much we shall be bold to say, that if a constant course be not held that the soldiers may be duly paid and better clothed, and the recruits of men, horse, saddles, and arms, may likewise be provided, it will be impossible for us to answer your expectations, or discharge the duties of our place ; whereof we have thought fit to give your Lordships timely notice, that we may not hereafter have it laid to our charge, that we have dealt unfaithfully in concealing that which, in the end, and too soon, will be the destruction and overthrow of this army, if speedy course be not taken to supply the wants and prevent our further weakness, occasioned chiefly by those particulars mentioned ; some whereof will rest in your Lordships' power to provide against. My Lord, it concerning our honour and the safety of the kingdom, we must deal plainly and clearly with you, that if a speed care be not had, there will not, in a few days, be left the face of an army here amongst us ; all which we refer to your Lordship's most serious and speedy consideration, and rest

Your Lordship's humble Servants,

THOMAS GREY	JOHN BURGOYN
WILLIAM BROOKE	FRANCIS RUSSELL
JOHN MIDDLETON	THOMAS TYRRELL
HARRY BARCLAY	JAMES HOLBORNE
LIONAL COPLEY	PHILIP STAPYLTON
JOHN MERRICK	EDWARD ALDRICH
PHILIP SKIPPON	SAMUEL LUKE

The effects of this letter were so serious, and led to events of such general interest, by having given rise to the ample provisions soon afterwards made to carry on the war with vigour, which thereby turned the balance of affairs against the supporters of the monarchy, and occasioned the destruction of the king and the establishment of the commonwealth, that even the place in which it was written, acquired by it a local importance, sufficient to justify its insertion in the History of the Newport Hundreds.

The ordinance for a weekly assessment throughout England was most rigidly enforced, in a week after this address. The share of that assessment for Bucks was £420 ; Henry Bulstrode and Thomas Tyrrell, being the assessors.

Ecclesiastical History of Great Brickhill.

The family of Basset having, by the marriage of a daughter of Hugh de Beauchamp, baron of Bedford, become possessed of the manor and advowson of the rectory before the reign of king John, the estate, ecclesiastical as well as temporal, passed by the daughter and heiress of Ralph Basset, to the family of Grey, lords of the adjacent parish of Bletchley (and possessors of many other lands and lordships in this and neighbouring counties) : and in 1307, was given by John, lord Grey de Wilton, to his second son, Roger Grey, who was created baron Grey of

Ruthyn, in whose posterity and descendants it remained until 1514; when Richard, earl of Kent, sold the manor and advowson to sir Charles Somerset, afterwards earl of Worcester; whose second son, sir Charles Somerset, conveyed the manor and advowson to William Duncombe, gent, of Ivinghoe Ashton. The male issue of Duncombe failing, the estate was divided among the three daughters and co-heiresses of John Duncombe; and the advowson became part of the possession of Mrs. Bristowe (widow of the Rev. Dr. Duncombe Bristowe), and the Rev. Philip Barton, great-grandson of the said John Duncombe; the Rev. Philip Barton likewise possessing one other third part, as heir of Dr. Stephen Chase.

Rectors of Great Brickhill.

- GALFRIDUS DE BELLO CAMPO, presented 1218, by Thomas Basset. He died 1256; and was succeeded by
- HENRY DE GREY, son of William de Grey, in 1256, on the presentation of William de Beauchamp; he died rector in 1276.
- JOHN DE ANEMOWE, or DUNMOWE, instituted 2 June 1676, on the presentation of sir Reginald de Grey, knight. He died, and
- ROBERT DE BLECHLEGH was presented by John Grey of Ruthyn, 9 October 1319. He resigned; and
- JOHN DE SCOTENEYE was instituted 12 September 1345, on the presentation of Roger, lord de Grey. He resigned; and
- JOHN DE SOUTHWYNITON, or ELKINGTON, was instituted 5 January 1346 on the presentation of Roger de Grey, on an exchange for Garburgh, Lincoln. He afterwards exchanged it for Quarendon, with
- THOMAS DE EURE, January 1347. He died; and
- NICHOLAS BOVETON DE BLECHLEI was instituted October 1349, on the presentation of Roger Grey. He exchanged it for Whitchurch, in Litchfield diocese with
- ROBERT DE STRAUNGE, September 1358. He resigned; and
- JOHN DE MERTON was instituted 6 October 1358, on the presentation of Roger de Grey. He resigned; and
- ADAM SEIRE, instituted 18 October 1382, on the presentation of Reginald de Grey de Ruthyn. He died; and
- NICHOLAS DRYNKWELL was instituted 13 January 1387.
- NICHOLAS WRIGHT, presented 3 April 1399, by Reginald Grey de Ruthyn and Wexland. He died; and
- WILLIAM ALDEWALL was presented by Reginald Grey de Ruthyn, 23 December 1419.
- WILLIAM HYGATE exchanged for the archdeaconry of Bangor, with
- THOMAS BANASTER, 9 February 1432; he exchanged for St. Lawrence-Poultney, London, with
- THOMAS RYE, 8 March 1434.
- JOHN STANWICK resigned in 1460; and was succeeded by
- ROBERT MERYDALE, instituted 19 May 1460, on the presentation of Edmund Grey. He died; and
- THOMAS COMYN was presented 23 May 1471, by Edmund, earl of Kent; as was
- ALEXANDER COMYN, 19 May 1479.
- THOMAS JOHNSON, presented 17 September 1480, by George, earl of Kent; as was
- JOHN DENHAM, 2 May 1498.
- SIMON WELDEN was presented 24 April 1509.
- EDMUND TICKHALL, presented 24 June 1516, by the earl of Worcester.
- SIMON RAWLINS, presented 31 March 1528. He died; and
- JOHN LANGLEY was presented 8 June 1543, by William Duncombe, gent. He resigned; and
- JOHN ROUSE was presented 27 October 1543, by the same patron. He died; and

WILLIAM OKELAND was presented 28 January 1555, by William Duncombe. He died; and

JOHN WHITEACRES was presented 31 July 1569, by Thomas Duncombe. He died; and

LUCAS WATTS was instituted 28 January 1585, on the presentation of Thomas Duncombe. He died; and

JOHN CHARLET was instituted 7 January 1602, on the presentation of John Duncombe. He quitted it on being made prebendary of Worcester.

FRANCIS CHARLET was instituted 20 December 1608, on the presentation of John Duncombe. He died in 1653; and was buried in the churchyard. He had been minister or vicar of Little Brickhill.

THOMAS CLUTTERBUCK was presented in 1653, by Mr. John Duncombe, and put in the actual possession of it by his patron; but Mr. Matthew Mead, teacher of a dissenting congregation at Stepney, having entertained hopes of acquiring this living, was resolved to get possession of it; and pretending a lapse, obtained the great seal for it. Upon Mr. Duncombe's petition to the commissioners, he had liberty to seek his remedy at law; and Mr. Clutterbuck obtained a verdict at Aylesbury Assizes; and possession was delivered upon the judgement. After which, Mr. Mead removed the cause into Haberdasher's Hall, endeavouring to defeat Mr. Duncombe's right or patronage, on account of malignancy. But the commission of the judges there expiring before this case was determined, Mead soon obtained a representation from the protector. In the meantime, Mr. Duncombe having in vain solicited the commissioners for the approbation of publick preachers, to approve his clerk, and those commissioners purposely delayed the matter, that Mead might have had time to begin a new suit. Clutterbuck being wearied out with those vexatious contests, resigned all right, and title to the rectory, and returned Mr. Duncombe his presentation; and thus, in affect, though not in form, was sequestered from the living. On the resignation of Mr. Clutterbuck.

ROBERT HOCKNELL, was presented about July 1655, by the same patron. Walker observes, that "the equitable right to the living was undoubtedly in Mr. Clutterbuck, who had been seized and worried into the resignation of it." The matter having been referred to the commissioners of approbation appointed during usurpation, Major General Parker, one of the commissioners, informed his brethren, that Duncombe had lost his right of presentation, and desired them to give Mr. Mead their instrument of approbation, which they did; and thereupon, the General telling Mr. Duncombe, that he had orders from the protector to give Mead possession, the next day, a troop of horse from Aylesbury seized upon the parsonage-house, by force, broke open the door, turned out the tenants, gave Mead possession, seized the corn and hay growing upon the glebe, and kept the house by force. Notwithstanding all which, Mr. Duncombe persisted in the defence of his right; whereupon, Mead, as he had before induced Major General Parker to decimate him for a malignant; likewise causing him to be taken into custody by a messenger from the protector, and threatened him with utter ruin. At length Hugh Peters took the matter in hand; deals first, with Mr. Duncombe, but in vain; till he told some of his friends, that the protector would have his heart's blood out. Whereupon Mr. Duncombe, to prevent the ruin of his family consented to a reference, and released Mr. Mead from all actions, &c. After recalling all former presentations, he presented

WILLIAM PEIRCE, a nephew to Hugh Peters, to the living, in 1656; but at the restoration, Mr. Duncombe revived his claim; and drawing up the state of his case submitted it to the consideration of Parliament; when

ROBERT HOCKNELL was restored to the possession of this living.

THOMAS CLUTTERBUCK, however was re-admitted 24 July 1660, and kept it till his death. He was buried here, 27 December 1679. Theophilus Williams, M.A., was licensed to be curate in 1678.

SAMUEL BARTON, M.A., was instituted 8 January 1679, on the presentation of John Duncombe. He died 14 July 1715; and was succeeded by his son

JOHN BARTON, M.A., presented 27 October 1715, by Ann Barton, daughter and co-

heiress of John Duncombe. He died 10 November 1760; and was buried in the same grave with his father, in the chancel. Cole describes him as "his worthy, facetious, and learned friend, in February 1760, at the age of seventy-seven, one of the most cheerful and lively men with whom he was acquainted." He was rector of Sherington, which living he resigned to his son, Philip Barton, on his marriage with a daughter of Mr. Robinson, of Cransley, Northants, and neice of Mr. Duncombe of Broughton.

JOHN PITTS, B.A., was presented by Frances Bristowe (widow of the late Dr. Bristowe sister of Mrs. Ann Barton and co-heiress of John Duncombe), at Great Ormond Street, and inducted 29 January 1761. He bequeathed £30 to purchase clothes for poor persons here, at the discretion of the churchwardens.

GEORGE ADDISON, M.A., inducted 13 December 1793 on the presentation of Philip Duncombe Pauncefort, an infant; by the advice and with the approbation of Henrietta Pauncefort, his mother and guardian; and James Digby, Esq., and John Christian Curwen, Esq., trustees under will of the Rev. Philip Barton. Mr. Addison 28 September 1803; and was succeeded by

LATHAM WAINWRIGHT, M.A., and F.R.S., inducted 24 December 1803, on the same presentation. He died in London, where he had usually resided, 21 December 1833.

HENRY FOULIS, M.A., was instituted in 1834 on the presentation of Philip Duncombe Pauncefort Duncombe, Esq., of Great Brickhill manor.

MONTAGUE BRYMER NEPEAN, M.A., of Christ's College, Cambridge, was presented in 1876.

The Parish Church of Great Brickhill.

The church (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin) stands in the western part of the village, and is a stone structure, consisting of a chancel, with side chapels, a nave with aisles and a south porch, and a low tower and a turret in the centre; the whole embattled, and mostly in the Perpendicular style. The tower contains a clock and seven bells, inscribed:

First, Third, Fourth, Fifth: W. & T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT, 1789,

Second: THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840.

Sixth: THE REVd. MR. PITT, RECTOR, EDWARD WATTS, ESQR.
JNO. EDWIN, ESQR., GENTLEMEN, MR. WM. TURNEY AND
MR. WM. MATTOCKS, CH. WARDENS, W. & T. MEARS OF
LONDON FECIT, 1789.

Sanctus: G. C. 1681.

Four pointed arches, resting on octagon pillars, separate the north and south aisles from the nave; and the tower is supported by four arches. Within the latter a temporary floor has been thrown across (for the bell ringers), which destroys the effect of the arches. The windows are irregular but good; the ceiling of the aisles are panelled; and that of the nave is open pine, stained to represent old oak. There is an ancient piscina in the north-east pier of the nave, indicating the site of an altar. The font is an octagon. The chancel, which is spacious, was rebuilt in 1602, by the family of Duncombe. The east window is large, and divided into three compartments which contain coloured glass representing the life of Christ. A brass plate bears the following inscription: To the glory of God and in loving memory of Sophia Caroline Pauncefort Duncombe, who died December 30, 1889, and of Philip Duncombe Pauncefort Duncombe, who died June 13, 1890. This window is erected by their children.

The south chapel has been converted into an organ chamber.

The west window, of three lights, is inscribed "He is not here but is risen as He said," and is "To the glory of God, in sacred memory of Sophia Caroline, the beloved wife of Sir P. Pauncefort Duncombe, born June 4, 1822; died Dec. 30, 1889."

The church contains many marble tablets to the memory of various members of the Barton, Bristowe, Chase, Digby, Duncombe, Pauncefort, and Wainewright families.

Great Brickhill Manor House.

The manor house, the seat of the lord of the manor, is a large handsome mansion of brick stuccoed, most beautifully situated on an imposing site, and commanding a splendid prospect. The park is extensive, and the pleasure grounds are laid out in all manner of devices, and planted with the choicest flowers and shrubs.

The Coprolite Fits of Great Brickhill.

Coprolite, the petrified excrement of pre-historic animals, being discovered in Great Brickhill Hills, was worked for about fourteen years and a half by a Wolverhampton firm of the name of Morris & Griffin. This curious fossil was entirely used for the manufacture of artificial manures, and was consigned from here to London, Wolverhampton, and Berkshire. The *modus operandi* was the excavation in the pits, from which it was drawn by horse power and thence "drummed" to Galley Lane, and from there conveyed to the river Lovat or Ousel by gravitation. Here it received a cleansing by a thorough washing in cylinders, after which it passed through a series of screens to sort it into the various sizes required. These pits were very prosperous for some time, but owing to better coprolites being found on the Continent, which did not require manipulation in any of the above processes, it was found impossible to compete with the imported products, hence the working of these pits ceased about the year 1879.

Smewnes Grange, Great Brickhill.

Smewnes Grange, called also Brickhill Grange, is a manor and hamlet, which anciently belonged to the abbots and convent of Woburn Beds. It occurs in a fine in 1347, between the abbat and John Passelew (sometimes written Passowere) Junior of Dunstable, and Margaret his wife, when the said grange and manor were passed to the use of the abbat and his successors, in the church of St. Mary of Woburn; having probably, been given in 1250, to that abbey, by Nicholas de Sanford, by a fine passed between Nicholas, abbat of Woburn, and Nicholas de Sanford; the latter thereby releasing lands in Great Brickhill, to Nicholas the abbat. It consequently descended with the estate of the family of Grey, until the time of Henry VIII.

In 1543, the king granted to Sir John Williams, lord Williams, of Thame, in exchange for the manors of West Wittenham, Berks, the manors of Stoke Hammond and Great Brickhill Grange, late belonging to Woburn monastery called Smewnes; two pastures called Waldeykes

and Grasecroft wood ; and lands called Lady-grove and Staple-grove, to him, his heirs and assigns for ever in capite.

In 1554, a fine was levied between Reginald Bray, querent, and Edward Stanton, deforcient, of the manor or grange of Smewnes, and tenements in Smewnes, Brickhill, Stoke Hammond, and Soulbury, the right of Reginald.

Lysons state, that Edward VI., granted the manor of Smewynes Grange to Edward Stanton, of whose descendant it was purchased in 1792, by Edward Hanmer, of Stock Grove, under an Act of Parliament which had passed in the preceeding year ; described this manor as extending into the parish of Soulbury ; and avers that the manor house was built by Edward Stanton, the grantee, within a moated site, near the river Ousel.

The Charities of Great Brickhill.

With the sum of £130 (of which £100 was the gift of William Duncombe, and £20 the gift of Anne Briscoe), a yearly rent-charge of £8 has been purchased for the use of the poor parishioners. This was left in 1632.

In 1701, Thomas Bush left one shilling per annum.

Anthony Holton, in 1724, left £50 to the poor of this parish for ever, to buy bread half-yearly for such persons as do not receive collection, and ordered a sixpenny loaf for a family and a threepenny loaf for a widow. This sum, together with £20 bequeathed in 1700 by

John Newman, has been invested in the purchase of £100 three per cent. consols.

John Meade, in 1716, left £50 for the employment of poor people in repairing and amending the highways ; with which a close of pasture in Stewkley was purchased ; the rent is carried to the account of the surveyors of highways. And he gave £10 in his life time.

William Meade left £50 for the poor.

Letitia Pitts, by her will in 1805, left £5 per annum for the poor. Nothing was received by the parish in respect of this charity till 1828, when £53 was paid. This was invested in the purchase of £2 14s. 6d. per annum in the same stock, making the whole income of the charity £7 14s. 6d. per annum.

The Feoffee charity consists of nineteen acres and four poles of land, and several cottages, several of which are occupied by the poor, rent free ; the others, together with the land, let for about £30 per annum. Six acres, one rood, thirty-three poles, were awarded to the poor at the time of the inclosure in lieu of common rights.

One acre three poles of land, called Bell Rope Piece, lets for £2 10s. per annum.

FENNY STRATFORD.

FENNY STRATFORD, originally a hamlet and chapelry of Bletchley, now possesses all the rights of an independent parish and township. According to the Ordnance Survey the parish contains 1,040 acres; and the census of 1891, shows a population of 2,614, which does not include the inhabitants on the north side of the High Street, in Simpson parish.

The parish is bounded on the north, by Simpson; on the east, by the river Ousel, or Lovat, and Little Brickhill; on the south, by Water Eaton; and on the west, by Bletchley. The parish is intersected by the main line of the London & North-Western Railway, the Bedford branch of the same railway, and the Grand Junction Canal. The manorial history of the place is identical with the history of the manors of Bletchley and Water Eaton. The hamlet of Fenny Stratford was inclosed by Act of Parliament, passed in 1790.

Fenny Stratford, a rapidly improving and increasing town, is situated 6 miles south from Newport Pagnell, 7 miles south-east from Stony Stratford, $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles east from Buckingham, and 44 miles north-west from London. It is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, head of a petty sessional division, rural deanery of Bletchley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford. The town lies directly on the Watling Street, the old Roman road from London to Chester, and it derives its name from Street, Stret, or Stratford, from the ford across the Ousel or Lovat on the line of the street-way; the prefix being obtained from the past marshy or fenny state of the surrounding land. Cole gives Fen as derived from the Saxon word clay.

The Roman military station Magiovintum is supposed to have been here. A place known as Dropshort, on the eastern border of the town, but in the parish of Bow Brickhill, is believed to be the site. The bishop of Cloyne, in a communication to the Messrs. Lysons, on the subject of Roman roads, etc., which is inserted in their *Magna Britannia*, states that this station was situated at "Auld Fields," about a quarter of a mile from Fenny Stratford, "on a small elevation, on the south side of the rivulet. It is the very position," he adds, "likely to have been chosen by the Romans; and coins and foundations of buildings have been dug up in abundance." There are no traces of this station remaining, but coins and foundations, fragments of pottery, tessellated pavements, and other antiquities of the Roman period have been discovered. In 1857, Roman remains, and coins of Nero, Cæsar Augustus, the Constantines, etc., were unearthed at Dropshort. Later still, whilst excavating clay, for brick making, at the rear of the Saracen's Head inn, on the south side of the Watling street, a great many

human bones, skulls, etc., were discovered, and from the number of small brass and copper Roman coins (known as third brass) found near them, it is supposed they were the remains of Roman soldiers. The bones were entire, but brittle, and the teeth were perfectly sound. The bodies were deposited within three or four feet of the surface.

In the reign of Henry III., the lord of the manor, John de Grey, had a grant of an annual fair here of seven days' duration, beginning on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (September 8); and there had been immemorially a weekly market on Mondays by prescriptive right, which was confirmed by a charter of king James in 1607, but discontinued during the Civil War. It was revived after the Restoration, but again discontinued in 1665, when the plague raged here; again revived in 1702, see *London Gazette* of 29 June 1702. In 1817, an attempt was made to revive the corn market on Monday evenings, at the Swan inn; but that effort soon proved abortive. In April 1858, the cattle market was revived and continues to be held in Aylesbury street on every alternate Thursday. In king James's charter, a fair was granted, to be holden on the 7th of April and two following days; and another on Michaelmas Day. For several years four fairs were held, on April 19, July 18, October 11, for hiring servants, and November 28; those of April and October are the only fairs held at the present time.

The small ancient market house, near the church, having become very delapidated, was rebuilt in 1724, by Browne Willis. This old-time building was removed about fifty years ago.

In 1665, Fenny Stratford was not so fortunate as Stony Stratford, to escape a visitation of the great plague, which devastated the country in all directions. Having, probably, been brought here from London by the waggoners or those fleeing from that city, it spread with remarkable rapidity. The town was completely isolated owing to the virulence of the scourge, which caused a complete cessation of all business, and the roadway deviated a considerable distance from its regular course, to avoid the town, for the time being. The death roll of this malady was 129, and the burials took place in a field which took the name of Graves Close, and is the site of the present Board schools. Cole gives the number of deaths as 106 for Bletchley, and 23 for the Simpson portion of Fenny Stratford.

The ancient manor house, long since removed, stood on the left of the road leading towards Water Eaton.

Fenny Stratford Chantry Chapel

Is said to have been endowed 22 Nov. 1494; and in a certificate of all the lands, &c, belonging to similar chantries, hospitals, and free chapels, dated 1547, it is certified for the county of Bucks, as follows: "The Parish of Bletchley, 1547.—The fraternity or guild of St. Margaret and St. Katherine, in Fenny Stratford, was founded by Roger Hebbes and John Hebbes, to the intent that they and others should ordain and constitute one fraternity of two wardens and alderman to be rulers of the

same, having capacity to take lands and other hereditaments to the value of £16 for the finding of a priest, and also, "deeds of charity." But the fact is, that the original foundation, was by letters patent of King Henry VII., tested 22 November 1494, that a fraternity or guild should be founded in Fenny Stratford, to pray for the good estate of the King, &c., and of Roger Hebbes, John Hebbes his son, William Parker, John Lane, John Smith, and William Stevens, the founders of the said fraternity or guild with the appointments of the brotherhood, sisters, &c., as in the certificate at the surrender. This establishment included a society, or brotherhood, comprising an indefinite number of brethren and sisters, who anciently assembled at the brotherhood house, which subsequently became the Bull Inn. The two priests thus provided, were "to administer sacraments and sacramentals, there being 220 houseling people in the said hamlet, distant from the parish church of Bletchley one mile;" and "the said fraternity being of the yearly value of £13/16/9. Whereof there were paid to the lord Grey (lord of the manor), resolute ten shillings and one penny remaining for the two priest's wages £12; for the clerk's wages of the said chapel, and other expenses yearly made within the same, twenty six shillings and eight pence being a total of £13/16/9."

In 1460, "*Fenny Stratford* capella was returned in the Roll of Peter-pence, collected in the archdeaconry of Bucks; so that it was then a chapelry, though not endowed until 1493, thirty years afterwards."

The ornaments and goods appertaining to the same fraternity were esteemed to be worth, as by the inventory, £17/0/8.

At the dissolution of the chantries, in 1553, Sir Walter Wood and Sir William Priestwick, clerks, were styled incumbents; and the last of them had a stipend annually issuing from the house. It was certified, that each had £6 clear by the year; that they were both well learned, and able to preach the word of God. It appears that these priests, or chantry chaplains, denominated themselves, or were by others called, in the following order,

Curates of Fenny Stratford.

JOHN MEDBURN occurs curate in 1496, who, or a person in the same name, had been prior of Snelshall in 1478; but he voided his priorship before 1488, and therefore could not have been the same, unless he became a secular priest.

RICHARD COOKE, called, in a will, in 1505, "*Capellanus de Fenny Stratford.*"

JOHN WIGGE, curate in 1519 and 1521.

WILLIAM MALTBIE, in 1522; prior of Snelshall in 1529.

RICHARD PADFIELD, curate 1523.

RICHARD MORON, in 1525.

RICHARD MORLEY, in 1536.

ROBERT CHADDOCK, in 1536, 1538, and 1544.

From this time, no names of chaplains and curates, or incumbents are discovered, until after the rebuilding of the chapel by Browne Willis, and a subscription made through his instrumentality; when

SAMUEL CLARK, M.A., of Oriel College, was licensed to the curacy of Fenny Stratford, in May 1731. He left in June 1735.

THOMAS WARRENDER, of Edinburgh served to 1737.

RICHARD EYRE, vicar of Whaddon, and

EDMUND SMITH, vicar of Stantonbury, served until after Easter, 1738.

CHRISTOPHER GOLDING, Fellow of New college, served to 1 November 1738.

WILLIAM CLIFTON, B.A., of Balliol, then became curate.

JOHN FLETCHER, minister, signed from 1745 to 1760.

RALPH LEYCESTER, B.A., was presented in 1761, to Fenny Stratford curacy, by Wm. Cole, M.A., rector of Bletchley. He had been previously curate of Simpson; and married a sister of Sir Walden Hammer, bart., lord of the manor.

WYAT FRANCIS, curate, 1761.

THOMAS WILLIS, rector of Bletchley, signed the register for some years, from 1774; also

W. H. BARRY, curate; and

WILLIAM CARTER, curate.

WILLIAM PINNOCK, rector of Great Woolstone, was "minister of this chapel," from 1787 to 1801.

JOHN STEWARD was presented 1847.

THOMAS PYM WILLIAMSON, was presented in 1852. He resigned, having been presented with the living of Little Brickhill. On the eve of his departure he was presented by his late parishioners with an address, engrossed on parchment, and a costly silver salver, beautifully chased and inscribed: "Presented to the Rev. Thomas Pym Williamson, by his grateful parishioners, in acknowledgment of his many faithful services during his ministry. March 5th, 1861." The presentation took place at a banquet given to the rev. gentleman, in St. Martin's Hall. Mrs. Williamson was afterwards presented with a valuable butter dish, as a parting gift by the parishioners. He was succeeded by

CHARLES WILLIAM BARNETT-CLARKE, who was presented in 1861.

GEORGE W. CORKER, an eccentric character, was presented in 1864. He quitted this living, for that of Stony Stratford.

ALFRED HENRY BARROW, M.A., of Merton college, Oxford, was instituted in 1883. At his resignation, he was succeeded by

C. T. GILLET, M.A., who was presented in 1893. At his resignation, he was succeeded by

HENRY FRANCIS OLIVER, M.A., of Exeter college, Oxford, late vicar of Scawby, Lincolnshire, who was presented in 1898.

Saint Martin's Church, Fenny Stratford.

The old *Chapel of Ease to Bletchley, which consisted of two or three aisles and an embattled tower, and was dedicated in honour of St. Margaret, having been demolished during the civil wars, the town was long without a place of worship in connexion with the established church. At length Dr. Browne Willis,† the antiquary, lord of the manor and patron of the rectory of Bletchley, resolved to rebuild and endow the ancient edifice, and for that laudable purpose he raised subscriptions, and persevered until he achieved the proposed end. Having purchased the site of the old chapel, he laid the foundation stone of the new one in 1724, on St. Martin's Day; and the edifice was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln, and dedicated to St. Martin upon the 27th of May,

* The "fraternity" and chapel was suppressed 4 Edward VI. (1550). The timber, stone, walls, lead, and bells were sold by the king for £1,572/15/9. The chapel was battlemented, and at least as big as Little or Bow Brickhill churches. There were four bells. In 1502, October 31, Gilbert Ipswell made his will, to be buried in the chapel of St. Margaret, Fenny Stratford, and left money to pave it with tiles.

† In 1711, Browne Willis purchased, and pulled down, a "meeting-house" at Fenny Stratford, to "prevent the growth of fanaticism;" and the inhabitants signed a deed promising never to sell land nor houses for the purpose of erecting another.

Cole MSS.

1730—Willis himself presenting the petition for consecration. On the morning of the day following, the triennial visitation of the bishop was held here, when about 90 clergymen were present; and in the afternoon about 100 persons were admitted to the rite of confirmation, within the



FENNY STRATFORD CHURCH AND AYLESBURY STREET.

newly founded church. Willis calls the erection of this edifice "his chiefest and most real worldly comfort and happiness," and to commemorate its erection, he directed annually on St. Martin's Day, the 11th of November, divine service should be performed, and communion administered in the church; and that afterwards an assembly shall be convened in some house in the town, at which the deed of endowment should be read. For the maintenance of this festival he settled a yearly rent-charge of 20s. to be given to the preacher on that day, chargeable upon a pasture at Bletchley; but when the field, together with a messuage and other lands in Bletchley were demised for the endowment of this church, this payment was merged in the rent due to the incumbent. Lipscomb tells us that Willis requested his heirs to augment the curacy of Fenny Stratford, but that they have not thought proper to do so; that he requested that the rector of Bletchley should never simultaneously hold this curacy; but he directed that if the rector would contribute £6 per annum towards the augmentation of the living he should have the appointment of the minister.

The tower is embattled and contains a clock and seven bells, inscribed:

First: THE GIFT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE TO STRATFORD CHAPELL
1727.

- Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth*: CAST BY GILLETT & Co., CROYDON 1887,
Sixth: CAST BY GILLETT & Co., CROYDON. HÆ CAMPANÆ IN
 GLORIAM DEI ET IN PIAM COMMEMORATIONEM ANNI
 SEMISÆCULARIS VIC. REG. 1887 A. H. BARROW M.A. VICAR.
Seventh: JOHN BRIANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, MVCCCXXIV.

The deep pits in the sound-bow of the first bell bear witness to the amount of use got out of it during the last 170 years. The seventh, or tenor bell was probably recast from an older bell, the history of which can be found in the Willis MSS. (52B), thus:

Bought 27 Feb. 1730, at Castlethrupp, the biggest bell there weighing 7
 cwt. & $\frac{1}{2}$ & 18 pound. £40 10 0
 By the time it was hung at Fenny Stratford it had cost £52 8 6
 In June following, the Bell proving an exceedingly bad one, the same
 was taken down and sent to Gloster, where it was exchanged at 3^d a
 lb. & for additional mettall of one q^r. & 19lb. at 13^d a lb. & for a new
 clapper to Mr Rudhall. £14 13 6
 The total expense of Stratford great bell which weighed 905lbs. came to
 £74 9/0, in all, this sum was raised by public subscription, Dr Benson,
 Archdeacon, giving £20.

Venerabilis Vir Dr Martinus Benson, Archd. Berks, toties memora(bis) quotidianus noster Benefactor dedit viginti Libras in Acquisitionem magnæ campanæ pulsanda in concionibus Funeribus et in Hora octava nocturna antique vocat curfew Bell.

From 11 October to 25 March, the "curfew" is rung nightly, at eight o'clock, the lord of the manor paying £1 per annum to the ringer, whose duty it is to regularly perform this service.

Within the north chapel lie buried the remains of the celebrated individual through whose instrumentality this church was built; and a white marble slab bears the following inscription, said to have been composed by himself:—

Hic situs est
 Browne Willis, Antiquarius,
 Cujus cl. Avi æternæ Memoriae
 Tho. Willis Archiatri totius Europæ celeberrimi
 defuncti Die Sancti Martini, A.D. 1675.
 Hæc Capella exiguum Monumentum est.
 Obiit 5^o die Feb. A.D. 1760;
 Ætatis suæ 78.
 O Christe Soter et Judex,
 huic Peccatorum primo
 misericors ac propitius esto.

At his own request, Dr. Willis's corpse was attended to the place of interment by the Corporation of Buckingham.

Browne Willis, like many other possessors of genius, was far from being free from eccentricity; which, as Lipscomb hints, marked, but did not sully, his character. The reason which he assigned for the dedication of this church to St. Martin was, that his grandfather, Professor Willis, the celebrated physician, from whom he derived his estate, was born in St. Martin's Lane, London, and died there, on St. Martin's Day; and he

caused an engraved portrait of his grandfather to be placed near the entrance to the building with these lines :—

In Honour to thy Memory, Blessed Shade
Was the Foundation of this Chapell laid,
Purchas'd by Thee, Thy son & I, their Heir
Owe these three Mannours to thy Art & Care
For this may all Thy Race Thanks ever pay,
And Yearly Celebrate Saint Martin's Day.

In the vestry is the engraved portrait by Vertu, of Dr. Willis, grandfather of the founder; and inscribed round the bust is "Tho. Willis, M.D. obit 1675, Avus D. JTS. die Sancti Martini."

Dr. Willis's portrait was engraved by Mr. Vertu at Browne Willis's solicitation, at a cost of twenty-one pounds, and was published among the "illustrious men." It had under it, the following, written in print hand, by Browne Willis:

He founded early and late prayers in this church of St. Martin, and appointed the schoolmaster to read them, that his scholars might begin and end their school hours with divine service, which he constantly attended before he visited his patients. His Sunday's fees he gave away in charity, tho' they were more considerable than those of any other day in the week. He died at his house in St. Martin's Lane, on St. Martin's Day, Nov. 11, 1675, & was buried in Westmstr Abbey in the 54 year of his age.

Willis attended the festivities of St. Martin's Day whilst he lived. The Rev. William Cole, rector of Bletchley, states, that "Browne Willis used to carry a handsome silver cup, weighing 75ozs 10dwts., to the Bull Inn, at Fenny Stratford, on St. Martin's Day every year, and celebrated the day after divine service with such company as he could get to meet him from the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood. The cup was an heir-loom given by Dr. Benson, formerly rector of Bletchley, and then bishop of Gloucester." Browne Willis provided for the maintenance of an entertainment for the townspeople on the feast of the patron saint of the place, by giving in trust for this purpose a house in Aylesbury street, called St. Martin's House. In his (Willis's) manuscripts in the Bodleian library he says :

On St. John Evangelist's day 1754 (my son's birthday) new style, a stone was set up over the door in the House I gave Stratford Town, wh. was let to Matthew Cherry for £3/10/- per ann. with this inscription cut on it: This House was settl'd on y^e paish Officers of the Town for the annual observance of St. Martin's Day. Anno Domini, 1752.

The Town are to pay every St. Martin's Day 10^s for a sermon.

This house is now in two tenements, and the ten shillings have been augmented to twenty shillings.

One of Cole's remarks, in his manuscripts, in reference to the church, reads :

The foundation stone of St. Martin's church was laid by Mr. B. Willis on 11 Nov. 1724. He put under it a shilling of Eliz. in whose time the old chapel was demolished. The next stone was laid by his son Thomas, who, under it put a sixpence of Eliz. Several small silver and copper coins were also thrown in by others present.

The length of the chapel is 50 foot, exclusive of the tower wh. is 17 foot; breadth & height of the chapel, 25 foot; height of tower, 49 foot.

In the chapel chest is preserved a sheet of parchment, containing a direction for the chapel wardens, which very strongly marks the character as well as indicates the grateful feelings of Browne Willis towards the persons by whose munificence the structure was raised :

"It is ordered and appointed, that on any notice or knowledge of the decease of the undermentioned most worthy persons (whose honourable Ensigns of Arms are here placed in everlasting remembrance, and whose Reward we trust, is with the Almighty), that the great Bell of this Chapel shall be solemnly tolled and rung out in all cases and respects as if an Inhabitant of the Town were departed out of this transitory World; and that after the said Knoll, an asterisk be figured opposite to the name of the defunct, that our minister may on the commemoration day, leave out his or her name in our Prayer for our Founders; and this table is therefore to remain as long as any of our said Founders survive; and this order to be strictly observed in relation to the following persons, our Founders, to whose alms and expense we principally owe the merciful Blessing of assembling and meeting together in Divine Worship :

Dr. Thomas Symonds,	The Hon. Mr. Justice Fortescue.
Martin Benson, Archdeacon of Berks.	Sir Holland Egerton.
William Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury.	Sir John Chester.
Wriothesley Russell, Duke of Bedford.	Sir Thomas Lee.
John Montague, Duke of Montague.	Nicholas Claggett, Archdeacon of Buckingham.
Scroop Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater.	David Trimmell, Archdeacon of Leicester.
James Compton, Earl of Northampton.	Thomas Tanner, Archdeacon of Norfolk.
Arthur Annesley, Earl of Anglesea.	Montague Garrard Drake, Esq.
George Lee, Earl of Litchfield.	Thomas Cartwright, Esq.
Montague Venables Bertie, Earl of Abingdon.	Thomas Uthwatt, Esq.
Thomas Fermor, Earl of Pomfret.	William Cartwright, Esq.
Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery.	William Gore, Esq.
Hugh Boulter, Archbishop of Armagh.	Gilbert Symkin, Esq.
Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln.	Richard Eliot, Esq.
Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London.	Lucy Knightley, Esq.
William Bradshaw, Bishop of Bristol.	Richard Cambridge, Esq.
Henry Petty, Earl of Shelburne.	Hon. Lady Elizabeth Hastings.
William Cheyne, Viscount Newhaven.	Mrs. Grace Benet.
Frances Scudamore, V-countess Scudamore.	Mrs. Lettice Pigot.
Ralph Verney, Viscount Fermanagh.	Richard Lowndes, Esq.
The Hon. Charles Leigh.	Rev. Mr. David James.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Denton.	Rev. Mr. Joseph Disney."

The Armorial Ceiling of Fenny Stratford Church.

The ceiling is divided into forty compartments, or panels, painted and highly ornamented, having in each a coat of arms, with the name of the person to whom it belongs, on a white scroll, in the following order, beginning at the east end towards the north angle :

1. Coll. *Ædis Christi*. S. on a cross engrailed arg.; a lion passant gu. between four leopards' heads az on a chief or. a rose of the third barbed and seeded proper between two Cornish choughs proper.
2. Coll. *Aenei Nasi*. The shield divided into three parts paleways. 1st part arg. a chevron sable between three roses gu. barbed and seeded proper. 2nd part gu. two lions passant gard. arg.; on a chief az. the B.V.M. and child sitting, crowned, and holding a sceptre of the second. 3rd part quarterly. 1 and 4

- arg. a chevron between three bugle horns stringed sable. 2 and 3 arg. a chevron between three cross crosslets sable.
3. Coll. Corp. Christ. Dexter gu two keys indorsed in bend the upper arg. the lower or. a sword between them in bend sinister of the second, hilted or., impaling, az. a pelican vulning herself or.
 4. Coll. Jesus. Vert. three bucks trippant arg. attired or.
 5. Coll. Novum. Arg. two chevronels sable between three roses gu. barbed and seeded proper.
 6. Coll. Westmonast. Az. a cross patonce between four martlets or. on a chief arg. France and England quarterly, between two roses gu.
 7. Eccl. Coll. Windsor. Arg. a cross gu.
 8. Coll. Etonense. Az. three lilies slipped and leaved arg. on a chief per pale az. and gu. on dexter side a fleur-de-lis; on the sinister, a lion passant gardant or.
 9. Villa de Bucks. Party per pale gu. and sable a swan with wings expanded arg. ducally gorged and chained or.
 10. Villa de Bedford. Az. an eagle displayed arg. crowned or.
 11. Burgus St. Albani. Az. a saltire or.
 12. Coll. Prope Winton. The same as New College (No. 5.)
 13. Will. Wake Archiep. Cant. Az. an episcopal staff in pale or. ensigned with a cross pattée arg. surmounted of a pall of the last charged with four crosses formée fitché sable fimbriated or. impaling, or. two bars gu. in chief three torteaux. A mitre above the shield.
 14. Wriothesley Russell Dux de Bedford. Arg. a lion rampant gu. on a chief sable three escalops of the first. A ducal coronet above the shield.
 15. Johannes Montagu Dux de Montague. Quarterly 1 and 4 arg. three lozenges conjoined in fess gu. a bordure sable (Montagu); 2 and 3 or. an eagle displayed vert beaked and membered gu. (Monthermer). A ducal coronet above the shield.
 16. Scroop Egerton Dux de Bridgwater. Arg. a lion rampant gu. between three phæons sable. A ducal coronet above the shield.
 17. Jacobus Compton Comes de Northamp. S. a lion passant gardant or. between three esquires' helmets arg. Earl's coronet above the shield.
 18. Arthur Annesley Com. de Anglesey. Paly of six arg. and az. a bend gu. Earl's coronet over shield.
 19. Georgius Lee Comes de Litchfield. Arg. a fess between three crescents S.
 20. Montagu Bertie Comes de Abingdon. Arg. three battering rams, barways in pale proper, garnished az.
 21. Will. Cheyne, Vice-Com. Newhaven. Chequy or. and az. on a fess gu. fretty ar.
 22. Francisca Scudamore, Vice-Com. de Scudamore. On a lozenge gu. three stirrups leathered and buckled or. impaling az. a fleur-de-lis or.
 23. Radulph Verney, Vice-Comes Fermanagh. Az. on a cross arg. five mullets pierced gu.
 24. Tho. Uthwatt, Arm. Vice-Comes Buck. Az. a lion rampant arg.
 25. Alex. Denton, Justiciar Dom. Regis de Banco. Arg. two bars gu. in chief three cinquefoils sable.
 26. Hon. Car. Leigh Miles Pro. Com. Bedford. Gu. a cross engrailed arg. in dexter canton a lozenge or. a crescent of the first on the cross (for difference).
 27. Johannes Chester, Baronettus. Party per pale arg. and S. a chev. engr. between 3 rams' heads erased, horned or, counter-charged, an inescutcheon of Ulster.
 28. Tho. Lee, Baronettus. Az. two bars or. a bend chequy or. and gu. an inescutcheon of Ulster.
 29. Mount-Gerard Drake, Armig. Miles Pro. Com. Buck. Arg. a wyvern, wings displayed, its tail nowed gu.
 30. Tho. Cartwright, Armig. Miles Pro. Com. Northampt. Erm. a fess engrailed gu. between three hand grenades exploding proper.
 31. Ric. Elliot, Arm. Cornubiensis. Arg. a fess gu. between 2 bars wavy gemells az. a crescent or.
 32. Ricardus Cambridge, Armig. Londoniensis. Arg. on a pile gu. between six cross crosslets fitché sable, a cross patonce of the field.

33. Gracia Bennet, Dom. de Bechampton. On a lozenge gu. a bezant between three demi-lions rampant or.
34. Leticia Pigott, Domina de Doddershall. On a lozenge sa. three pickaxes arg. impaling, arg. three wolves courant barwise in pale sa.
35. Rev. Dav. James, Rect. de Woughton. Az. a lion rampant an orle of ten roses arg. a martlet or. for diff.
36. Rev. Jo. Disney, Vicar de Cranbroke. Arg. a fess gu. charged with three fleur-de-lis or.
37. Coll. S. S. Trinit., Camb. Arg. a chevron between three roses gu. barbed and seeded proper, on a chief of the second a lion of England between two Bibles clasped or.
38. Coll. S. Johannis Evang. Quarterly Fance and England, within a bordeur gobony arg. and az.
39. Coll. Buckingham St. Magdal. Quarterly per pale indented az. and or. 1 and 3 an eagle displayed of the first on a bend of the second a fretté between two martlets of the first.
40. Eccles. Cath. Durham. Az. a cross potence between four lions ramp. or.
41. Gu. on a cross rayonnée between four crosses patée or. a hurte charged with a cross trefleè or.
42. Tho. Symonds, Armiger. Sable, a dolphin embowed holding in the mouth a fish arg.

On the north side :

43. Will. Bradshaw, Episcopus Bristol, Decanus aedis Chriti, Oxon. Sable, 3 ducal crowns in pale or. impaling arg. two bendlets sable.
44. Collegium Universitatis. Az. a cross patonce between four martlets or.
45. Honorab. Domina Elizabeth Hastings. On a lozenge arg. a maunch sable.
46. Edm. Gibson, Episcopus, Lond. Gu. two swords in saltire arg. hilted or. impaling az. three storks rising arg.
47. Rev. Martin Benson, Archidiaconus de Berks, Rector Noster de Blechley. Quarterly 1 and 4 gu. on a chevron or. three crosses pateè sable 2nd arg. on two bars az. three crosses pateè or. 3rd arg. an eagle displayed gu.
48. Rev. David Trimmell, Archidiac. Leicesterensis Rectoris de Stoke. Ar. a cross gu. over a bend or.
49. Rev. Tho. Fanner, Archidiac. Norfolk : Ædis Christi, Oxon. Canon. Arg. three Moor's heads proper; wreathed or turbanned.
50. Will. Cartwright, Arm. et Byzantia uxor. ejus. Cartwright as No. 30, on the ceiling, with an escutcheon of pretence, party per pale az. and gu. 3 saltires or.
51. R. Pomfret, Gen. de Newport Pagnel. Az. a church proper.
52. Will. Gore de Tring, Arm. Gu. a fess or. between three cross crosslets fitché S.

On shields affixed to the cornice ; at the west end :

53. Coll. B. M. Magdl. Oxon. Lozengy erm. and sable on a chief of the last, three lilies slipped arg.
54. Arg. a cross gu.
55. Coll. Regal. Cantab. Sable three cinquefoils arg. on a chief per pale az. and gu. a fleur de lis, and a lion passant gardant or.

On the south side :

56. Rev. Edw. Wells, nuper rector de Bletchley. Az. a book open ; thereto annexed seven seals, all or.
57. Gilbertus Symkin, arm. Ar. on a bend sable three dolphins embowed or.
58. Lucie Knightley, arm. et uxor ejus filia Henrici Benson, arm. Quarterly 1 and 4 ermine. 2 and 3 paly of six or. and gu. shield of pretence arg. on a chevron between three goats' heads erased sable, as many escallops or.
59. Johannes Fortescue, Miles dom. Regis Justiciarius et domin. Elizabetha uxor ejus, filia Roberti Dormer, arm. Az. a bend engrailed arg. cotised or. shield of pretence chequy or. and az. on a chief of the first a demi-lion rampant of the last,

60. Ric. Lowndes de Winslow. arm. Arg. fretté az. on a canton gu. a leopard's head erased or.
61. Rev. Martin Benson, archidiaconus de Berks, rector noster de Blechley. As before, on the opposite side. (No. 47.)
62. Henricus Petty. comes. de Shelburne. Ermine on a bend az. a magnetic needle pointing at the pole-star or.
63. Tho. Farmor, comes. de Pomfret. Arg. a fess sable between three lions' heads erased gu.
64. Carolus Boyle, comes. de Orrery. Party per bend embattled arg. and gu.
65. Hugo Boulter, Archiepisc. Armagh nuper episcopus Bristol et Decanus ædis Christi, Oxon. Az. an episcopal staff in pale ensigned with a cross patée or. surmounted by a pall of the second fimbriated and fringed or. charged with four crosses formée fitchée sable impaling, quarterly az. and erm. in 1st quarter a dove proper, in the 4th a bird bolt in pale or feathered arg.
66. Sir Holland Egerton. Quarterly 1 arg. a lion rampant gu. between three pheons sable. 2 gu. three pheons or. 3 barry of six arg. and az. a label of five points gu. 4 az. semée of lis, a lion arg.

In the north-west window, which was the original east window :

67. The royal arms G. R. (Hanover in fourth quarter).
- 68 & 69. Arms of Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
70. Thos. Price, arm. Restitut. Fun. Arg. three Cornish choughs contournée sa. Crest, a lion's face pierced through the mouth in bend with an arrow arg.
71. Rich. Reynolds, Episcopus Lincoln. Gu. two lions of England : on a chief az. the B.V.M. and child, sitting, crowned, and holding a sceptre of the second : impaling gu. a chevron chequy az. and or. between three cross crosslets arg.
72. Nich. Claget, S.T.P., Archid. Bucking. Erm. on a fess sable, three pheons or. Crest, a demi-eagle erm. wings displayed, crowned, and beaked or.
73. Fortescue impaling Stonor. Quarterly 1 and 4 az. on a bend engr. arg. cotised or. a mullet sable, 2 and 3 arg. fretty sable on a chief or. three roses gu. impaling quarterly of 13. 1 az. two bars dancetée or. 2 or. three roses gu. 3 az. four lions rampant or. on a canton of the last a mullet sable. 4 az. on a fess, between three lions' faces or. an annulet sable. 5 gu. a saltire arg. a label of the last. 6 arg. three fusils in fess gu. 7 or. an eagle displayed vert. 8 gu. a pale engr. arg. 9 az. 4. 10 arg. on a canton gu. a rose or. 11 arg. a saltire engr. gu. 12 England. 13 or. a lion rampant gu.
74. Fortescue impaling Bolein quarterly of six. 1 arg. a chevron gu. between three bulls' heads coupé sable. 2 quarterly sable and arg. 3 az. a fess between six cross crosslets or. 4 az. three sinister hands erect apaumée coupé at the wrist arg. 5 erm. on a chief sable, three crosses patée arg. 6 az. a fret arg. a chief gu.

The following notes are in reference to the above coat of arms, the numbers correspond therewith.

1. Of Oxford.
2. Of Oxford. First part is the arms of the founder, William Smith. Second part, arms of the See of Lincoln. Third, arms of Sir R. Sutton, of Chester, who finished the college.
3. Of Oxford. As used now, the shield is dividtd into three parts paleways. First, the arms of Richard Fox, dishop of Winchester, 1501-1528. Second, arms of See of Winchester (as above). Third, arms of Hugh Oldham, bishop of Exeter, 1505-1519.—Sable a chevron or. between three owls arg. on a chief of the second, as many roses gu.
4. Of Oxford. The arms of Hugh Price, LL.D. A benefactor.
5. Of Oxford. The arms of New College appears upside down in the stained glass at Tattenhoe; and in the church of Newton Longville; the college being manorial lord and patron of the living. The arms were those of the founder, William of Wykeham, bishop of Winchester, 1367-1405.
6. Ought to have five martlets,

7. Cross of St. George, patron saint of England.
- 10 & 11. Doubtfully depicted.
13. Was consecrated bishop of Lincoln in 1705, and translated to the Primacy in succession to Thomas Tenison in 1716. Died 1737.
14. Son of William Russell (beheaded 1683), by Rachel, daughter of Thos. Wriothesley, earl of Southampton. Succeeded his grandfather as second duke in 1700; died 1711.
15. Extinct 1749.
16. Was the fourth earl, and first duke (created 1720), extinct 1829. Francis third duke (second son of first duke), was the father of inland navigation, and made the Bridgewater canal.
18. Lord Arthur died 1737. Viscount Valentia is of this family.
19. Extinct 1776. Same family as Lees of Ditchley. Lord Dillon is of this family.
21. Of Scotland. Extinct 1738. William Cheyne died 1728, aged 71, buried at Drayton Beauchamp. Chenies derives its name from this family.
22. James, third viscount, died 1716, leaving an only daughter, Frances, who married first, Henry duke of Beaufort, div. 1743; in 1760 married Mr. Fitzroy, natural son of the duke of Grafton, by him she left an only child, Frances, wife of Charles, duke of Norfolk; died without issue, 1820. The Scudamore family acquired the manor of Stoke Hammond about 1660.
23. Extinct 1791. Ralph Verney was second viscount in 1733, and was created earl of Verney; died 1752. In 1827, Sir Harry Calvert assumed the name of Verney in lieu of his own. Arms of Calvert: "Paly of six erminois and pean a bend engr. countercharged," now borne quarterly with Verney.
24. Thomas Uthwat, lord of the manor of Great Linford, was high sheriff for Bucks, and died 1754; his only daughter, Catherine, married Matthew Knapp, of Little Linford. The arms are not in "Burke."
25. Alexander, second son of Alexander Denton and Hester, his wife, was born 14 August 1679, and succeeded his brother Edmund in 1714, and married in 1716, Catherine, daughter of John Bond of Sundridge, in Kent, who was buried at Hillesden, 5 July 1733. He sat for Buckingham from 1708 to 1722, when he was made justice of the court of Common Pleas. He became chancellor to the Prince of Wales; died 1738. Hillesden was granted by Edward IV., in 1547, to Thomas Denton. Ancestors of the Cokes, earl of Leicester.
27. Of Chicheley. Baronetcy created 1619, extinct 1769.
28. Of Hartwell. Extinct 1827.
29. Mr. Drake died 1728; buried at Amersham. The family has been of Shardeloes since, circa. 1670.
31. Of Port Eliot, Cornwall. Mrs. Browne Willis's family. These arms are over the tower door, outside.
33. Of Beachampton. In Beachampton church is a fine monument to Simon Benet and his wife Grace, daughter and coheir of Gilbert Moorwood, and several of their children; Grace, a daughter, married a relative, John Benet, of Abbing-ton, Kent. Grace, widow of Simon Benet, was murdered (see page 405).
34. Lettice died in 1735. There are monuments in Whaddon church to this family.
35. These arms are not in "Burke," and differ from those in Woughton church on the monument to Rev. D. James, who died 1746.
36. Monument in Stoke Hammond church to this family.
38. Of Cambridge (the Oxford college is St. John Baptist). Founded by Henry VII's mother.
43. Consecrated 1724. Succeeded Hugo Boulter.
44. Of Oxford. The arms of Edward the Confessor. There ought to be five martlets. University college founded A.D. 872, is the oldest college in Oxford.
45. Probably of Amersham. Died 22 December 1739; buried at Ledsham, York.
46. Consecrated to Lincoln in 1716, translated to London 1723, succeeded Wake.
48. Was precentor of Lincoln, and brother of Nicholas Trimmell, bishop of Winchester, and archdeacon of Leicester, and 48 years rector of Stoke Hammond.
49. Not in "Burke." Also Nos. 51 and 52.
57. Arms of Gilbert Symkin. Died 15 May 1744, aged 60; bur. in Bristol cathedral.

60. Monuments in Astwood church.

61. Martin Benson, rector of Blethchley in 1727, became archdeacon of Berks, prebendary of Durham, and in 1735 bishop of Gloucester; his death is noticed in the Blethchley register as follows: "1752. Aug. 30th. Apud Palatium Suum in Civitate Gloucestriensis ineffabili omnium luctu, obiit Reverendus in christo Pater Martinus Benson episcopus Gloucestriensis vere Primævus Anno ætatis suæ 64; et in ecclesia sua cathedrali sepultus jacet. Fuit septem magis annos Hujus Parochiæ Rector doctissimus vigilantissimus munificentissimus ubi Parochianis sui desiderium impetuum reliquit, et successoribus Hospitalitatis morum suavitatis charitatis et inculpabilis cœlibis vitæ in posterum imitandum exemplar non peritarum transmisit." The chapel of St. Martin, Fenny Stratford, was built during the incumbency of Dr. Martin Benson, and his arms are tricked in pen and ink on the first page of Fenny register; his death is therein recorded: "1752, August 30. Hoe die de nostro oppido egregie meritus Martinus Benson Dominus Episcopus Gloucestriensis olim Parochia de Blethchley Pastor dignissimus, Hujusquæ nostræ capellæ inter Fundatores primus.....maturus onus Mortale deposuit Anno Ætatis 64 apud Gloucestriam, Ac ibidem in ecclesia Cathedrali inhumatus est Benevolentia et cura ejus erga nos nostrasque Animas a nobis ac natorum.....di(ut)turno Honore usquæ tenebitur."
62. The Pettys held the manor of High Wycombe. Ancestors of the Marquess of Lansdowne.
63. Extinct 1867.
65. Arms granted to Dr. Hugh Bolter in 1720. He was consecrated to Bristol in 1719, and translated to Armagh in 1724; died, 1742.
66. See duke of Bridgewater's family, who owned Ashbridge; ancestors of earl Brownlow.
70. Of Westbury, Bucks.
71. Consecrated 1723. The arms above are those of Smith, not Reynolds.
72. Nicholas Clagett was bishop of St. Davids in 1732, and translated to Exeter in 1742. Died 8 December 1746, aged 61; buried in St. Margaret's, Westminster (no epitaph).
- 73 & 74. Stonor "Az. two bars dancetteé or., a chief arg.," not as in window. These two shields were originally in Salden house, when that mansion was demolished in 1739, Dr. Browne Willis bought much of the stained glass, and put these two in the east window of Fenny Stratford church; when the church was enlarged they were placed in their present position.
- Dr. Browne Willis' monument. Arms, Quarterly, 1 and 4 Willis, arg. a fess between three lions rampant gu. on a border of the last eight bezants. 2 Fell, or. two bars sable charged with three crosses patté fitchée arg. 3 Browne, Arg. on a chevron sable charged with three herons az., as many escallops or. a shield of pretence, Eliot, see No. 31.

The Registers of Fenny Stratford.

Fenny Stratford register begins in May 1730. It contains an account (*Commentariolum*), in latin, of the progress of events during the building of the "chapell," also a long list of donors towards the expense. In July 1737, a record is entered of the trial at Buckingham assizes concerning the highway for carriages over Eaton Leas. Bernard Fountain, tenant to Mrs. Mead, being plaintiff, and Thomas Cook and others of Eaton, defendants, the latter gained the verdict with costs £95. In 1752, a long entry, in latin, records, the death of the bishop of Gloucester. In 1760, the interment of Browne Willis, D.C.L., is entered in latin; and the death of king George II., on 25 October, is loyally noticed. In 1796, is the burial entry: "February 1st. Elizabeth Rogers filia (atque rumore meretrix sin patris) Gulielm Rogers de hoc

oppido." In 1785, many deaths from small-pox are entered. All through the register are entries of burial of strangers and travellers who died while journeying. During the period 1800-1815, are several records of deaths of soldiers, the advanced age of some of these warriors seems to show that the army required every man it could obtain, e.g. :

Burials. 1800. Aug. 8. John Elson, age 66, a soldier.

Aug. 31. William Storton, aged 55, Sergeant of Infantry.

Fenny Stratford XVIIIth Century Tokens.

The town of Fenny Statford, was not so productive in its Seventeenth Century trade tokens, as its neighbouring townships. This may be accounted for by the fact that the place was very small and did not contain many tradesmen.

A curious incident is, upon the four coins issued, the name of the town in each case is spelt differently. The circulation, in Fenny Stratford, was, without doubt, one of the longest, as the token of William Inns bears the earliest date of any issue throughout the county of Bucks, viz., 1651. There are several in the Hundreds undated which were evidently coined between the years 1651 and 1671, as there are none of later date. Those issued in Fenny Stratford are inscribed on the obverse and reverse as follows :

1. Ob. ★ ROBERT · HONNOR · OF—The Grocers' Arms.
B. ★ FENISTRATFORD · 1655—R. L. H.
2. Ob. ★ ROBERT · HONNOR · 67—R ★ L ★ H ★
B. ★ IN FENNÉ · STRATFORD—R ★ L ★ H ★
3. Ob. ★ WILLIAM · INNS · IN —W I conjoined.
B. ★ FENNISTRAT · FORD · 1651—W. A. I.
4. Ob. ★ JOHN · SMALBONS · IN—A hat. 1656.
B. ★ FENNEY · STRATFORD—I ★ E ★ S ★



Robert Honnor issued two varieties of his farthing as will be seen by the above list, taken from the coins themselves. Robert Honnor, the issuer of the token, appears to have been the son of Edward and Jane Honor, and was, according to the arms on his coin, a grocer by trade. It is impossible to tell at what age he was baptized, as this ceremony only took place eleven years before his first token was brought into circulation ; his wife Luce, whose initial appears upon his coin, was buried 29 July 1671. The entries in the Bletchley registers during the seventeenth century, of the family, are as follows :

1636. Feb. 15, Henery son of Edward Honor of fennystrat, malster,
& Jane his wife, bapt.

1638. Feb. 17, Jane d. of Ed. Honor, Malster, & Jane his wife, bapt.
 1640. Jan. 3, Annis d. of Ed. Honor, Malster, & Jane his wife, bapt.
 1644. Jan. 1, Roberte the sonne of Edward Honner of Stratford, bap.
 1645. Feb. 7, John the sonne of Edward Honner, bapt.
 1645. June 17, John the sonne of Edward Honner, bur.
 1649. Aug. 22, Richard the sonne of Edward Honner, bapt.
 1650. Sep. 16, Edward Honner of Stratford, buried.
 1651. Apr. 6, Rich. s. of Edw. Honner, bur.
 1655. Feb. 16, Willm. Honner & Sara Pursell of Eaton was married.
 1656. Dec. 24, Henry son of Willm. Honner of Stratford, born.
 1656. Dec. 31, Henry son of Willm. Honner of Stratford, buried.
 1658. May 31, James Coate & Judith Honner of Stratford, married,
 1658. Sept. 27, John Honnour of Stratford, buried.
 1660. Feb. 16, Willm. son of Willm. honor of Stratford, bap.
 1663. Feb. 3, Edw. son of Willm. Honor of Stratford, bap.
 1665. Sep. 8, Sarah wife of Willm. Honor of Stratford, buried (plague).
 1666. Feb. 12, Tho. s. of Willm. & Martha Honnor of strat, bapt^d.
 1666. May 1, Willm. s. of Willm. Honnor of strat, buried.
 1666. Oct. 20, Sarah d. of Willm. & Sarah Honnor of Strat, bap,
 1670. Jan. 25, Willm. Honnor of Stratford, buried.
 1670. June 28, Ann d. of Willm. Honnor of strat, bapt^d.
 1671. July 29, Luce w. of Rob^t Honnor of Strat, buried.
 1672. Apr. 20, Tho. son of Willm. Honnor of Strat, buried.
 1673. Feb. 17, Ann d. of Widow Honor of Strat, bur.
 1682. Sep. 26, John Honner of Eaton buried.
 1694. Aug. 26, Edw^d Honner of Strat, bur.

William Inns, of Penny Stratford, traded as a mercer, though this is not alluded to upon his "brass farthing." His wife Alice, whose initial appears with his upon his token, was buried 17 July 1670; he survived until October 1683. The following entries are given in the register:

1633. Sep. 12, William son of Willm. Inns of ffennistr, bapt.
 1635. Nov. 22, Mathew son of Willm. Innes and Alice his wife of Bletchley, bapt.
 1638. Aprill 8, Danyell sone of Willm. Innes, Mercer c of Alce his wife of ffennystr, bapt.
 1638. Dec. 13, Danyel sone of Willm. Innes of ffennystr, bur.
 1639. Nov. 24, Joan the sone of Willm. Innes, Mercer c of Alce his wife of ffennystr, bap.
 1643. May 28, Josephe the sonne of Willm. Innes of fenistratford, baptiz.
 1645. June 5, Marke the sonne of Willm. Innes of fenistratford, baptz.
 1649. Sept. 24, Eliz. dau. of Willm. Innes of fenistratford, buried.
 1651. June 20, dannell the sonn of Willm. Innes of fenistratford, bapt.
 1666. Nov. 25, John son of John Innes of Stratford, bapt.
 1669. Sep. 25, John son John Innes of Laidon, buried.
 1670. July 17, Alice w. of Willm. Innes Strat, buried.
 1678. July 17, Daniel son of Willm. Innes, senior of Strat, buried.
 1683. Oct. 7, Willm. Innes, senior of Stratford buried.
 1686. May 14, Willm. Innes of Stratford, buried.
 1690. Oct. 12, Joseph Innes of Stratford, bur.

John Smalbons, probably a son of Richard and Annis Smalbons, traded as a hatter, as signified by his token bearing a hat. He, too, was a married man, and the initial of Elizabeth, his wife, appears upon the reverse. The entries, during the century in which these tokens

1633. May 3, Judith d. of Richard Smalbones of Fennistrat, bapt.
 1638. feebra. 3, Mary c Susan the two twins of Richard Smalbones,
 chapman, c of Annis his wife of ffennystra, bapt.
 1639. April 12, Mary y^e dautr. of Ric. Smalbones, buried.
 1639. Aug. 7, Susana y^e dautr. of Ric. Smalbones, buried.
 1640. Oct. 18, Mary d. of Ric. Smalbones c Annis, bapt^d.
 1643. Jan. 28, Jane d. of Ric. Smalbones c Annis, bapt^d.
 1643. Jan. 27 (? 29), Jane d. of Ric. Smalbones c Annis, bur.
 1646. June 24, Marye d. of Ric. Smalbones c Annis, bur.
 1652. John the sonn of John Smalbones of fenistratford was born August—
 1654. Feb. 15, Eliz. d. of John Smalbones, born.
 1654. Feb. 28, Eliz. d. of John Smalbones, buried.
 1655. Jan. 6. Eliz. d. of John Smalbones, born.
 { Aug. 2, Joseph & Mary children of John Smalbones of Stratford, born.
 1658 { Aug. 11, " " " " " buried.
 { Aug. 15, Eliz. wife of John "Smalbones" of Stratford, buried."
 1664. May 10, Martha wife of John Smalbones of Strat, buried.

The Chapels of Fenny Stratford.

The Salvation army has barracks in Church street.

The Cemetery, Fenny Stratford.

Holme Leigh, Fenny Stratford.

In bygone days this ancient residence was known as Holme Leigh. Whilst the private house was being converted into business premises, it was stripped of the plaster which had covered it for so many years, thus affording Mr. J. Walsgrove the opportunity to photograph it.

From his copyright the accompanying sketch has been made by his permission. The whole of the windows were glazed with the small diamond panes like those retained in the attic.

Originally there were six small, diamond-paned, windows upon each floor as will be noticed in the curious sketch, on the following page, of Fenny Stratford High Street (now Aylesbury Street), made by Browne Willis nearly two centuries ago. This sketch, which is preserved in the Bodleian Library (Willis MSS. B52), is here published for the first time, and vividly illustrates the wonderful advance made since 1715, the site being the same as illustrated on page 498, but looking north instead of south.



HOLME LEIGH, FENNY STRATFORD. SKETCHED BY WILLIS

The old market hall, and Smith's cottages which occupied the corner of the present churchyard, mentioned elsewhere, are conspicuous features upon the sketch, likewise the curious Bull Inn barn with, what appears to have been, a clock and bell turret. This was a brick and timber building similar to Holme Leigh.

The High Street had houses on the east side opposite to the great house (Holme Leigh), but these were pulled down about 60 years ago (i.e. 1670 circa.) by Mr. Price of Westbury, the owner.—*Willis MSS.* vol. 98, p. 35.

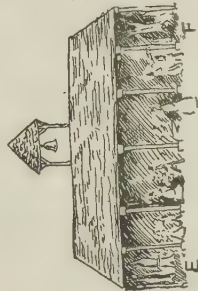
Fenny Stratford Charities.

By his will in 1793, proved 28 February 1798, William Underwood, of Newport Pagnell, left to the poor of Fenny Stratford the sum of £100, now £159 in the three per cents. The dividends £4 15s. 5d. per annum are expended in bread for the poor.

In 1500, David Byrne gave a small portion of land here for the poor;

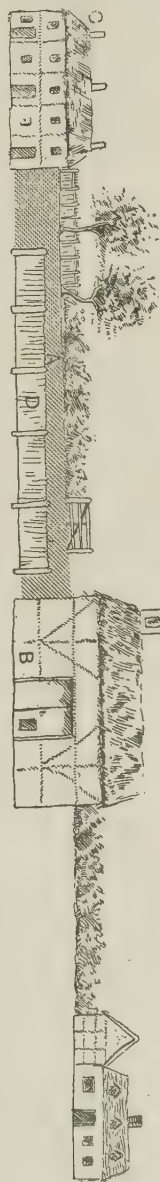


*A view of Stratf. High Street
att 1715.*



- A. Ye space between Smyth's & y^e Bull Barn.
- B. Y^e Bull Barn.
- C. Smyth's houses.
- D. Y^e Bored Stalls y^t are designed to be fixt there.
- E F. Y^e Butcher's shambles.
- G. Holme Leigh.

Watling Street.



BROWNÈ WILLIS'S SKETCH OF PENNY STRATFORD.

and in 1744, Browne Willis gave some land here for habitations for the poor. In 1786 these two bequests produced £3 a year; and in the last Report of the Charity Commissioners the property is described as consisting of two tenements under one roof with a blacksmith's shop in the middle (formerly known as the Angel Inn), and the site of a house which has been suffered to fall down, in Cross Street. The latter portion of the charity property has been sold for £32; and the former has been conveyed to the minister and church wardens as a site for the national school.

The Fenny Stratford Poppers.

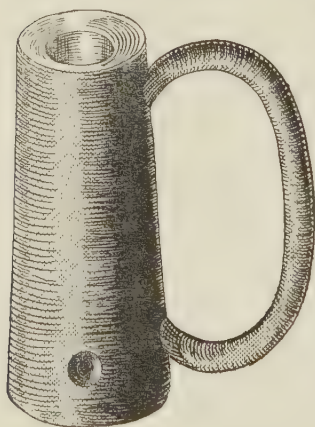
In the belfry are six small guns, given by Browne Willis, which are annually fired on St. Martin's Day, according to his directions. Each piece requires a quarter of a pound of gunpowder. They were formerly discharged repeatedly, and much more rejoicing was displayed on the

occasion, than has prevailed of late years. The inhabitants, however, and occasionally some of the gentry and clergy, usually assemble to gether; and, after divine service, and a sermon in the chapel, for which the officiating curate receives one guinea, as settled by Mr. Willis, the party adjourn, and partake of a convivial feast.

These specimens of antique ordnance resemble more the appearance of a quart mug, with a handle out of proportion, than anything else.

Some years ago one unfortunately burst, but it was replaced by another of exact dimensions. During the afternoon of 2 February 1901, the day set apart for the funeral services throughout the kingdom for the late queen Victoria, they were brought into service and used as minute guns, to the number of eighty-one, being the age of the late sovereign. Upon this occasion they fully belied their name as "poppers," for the reports were distinctly audible at Olney, a distance of about twelve miles.

To fire the eighty-one charges it required twenty-one and a half pounds of gunpowder, which had been subscribed for by the loyal townspeople. The modus operandi of firing the "poppers," is by holding a long rod of iron, and placing the end which has been made red hot upon the rather large touch hole, which will be noticed in the accompanying illustration.



The Petty Sessional Division of Fenny Stratford

Comprises the parishes of Bletchley, Bow Brickhill, Great Brickhill, Little Brickhill, Fenny Stratford, Simpson, Stoke Hammond, Walton, Water Eaton, Wavendon, and Woughton-on-the-Green.

Fenny Stratford Rifle Volunteers.

Owing to the Boer war bringing into increased prominence the fact that there was no local rifle corps, a public meeting was held at the church schools early in 1900, under the presidency of Brigade Surgeon Lt.-Col. P. B. Giles, V.D., J.P. The result of the meeting was the formation of an organization committee to raise funds, etc. Recruits were forthcoming in sufficient number, and by August seventy men from this place were competent to attend Shorncliffe camp for fourteen days' training with the 1st Bucks R.V.C. Captain John Chadwick, late 3rd Hants R.V.C., was re-gazetted to the command of the newly raised company. About £350 was raised to pay for equipment, etc., towards which Lt.-Col. A. Finlay, J.P., the Rev. H. F. Oliver, M.A., vicar of Fenny Stratford, and other local gentry liberally contributed.

Bletchley Park, Fenny Stratford.

Bletchley Park is the country residence of Herbert Samuel Leon, Esq., J.P., who was for several years the Liberal representative in Parliament for North Bucks. The mansion, a handsome modern structure of red brick, is approached from both north and south by a noble avenue of elm trees. The surrounding pleasure grounds, with a fine complement of glass-houses, are beautifully kept, and afford a considerable amount of pleasure to the general public, when they are occasionally thrown open by their greatly respected owner.

The Railway, Fenny Stratford.

The important station of Bletchley, upon the London & North-Western railway, is situated in the parish of Fenny Stratford. The station has been enlarged to meet the vast strides, and to cope with the present-day rush of business. The management here, has been skilfully directed by the respected station-master, Mr. Henry Bishop Thomas, for the past seventeen years. A fair idea of the magnitude attained by this once insignificant station, may be seen by the number of trains (from 400 to 500) which pass through daily, and the weekly pay list, which contains the names of about 700 employés.

Many interesting items in reference to Fenny Stratford will be found under the heading of the Bletchley Parish Registers, commencing on page 525.

BLETCHLEY.

BLETCHLEY parish contains 2,324 acres, whereof 1,308 form the township of Bletchley, and 1,016 the hamlet of Water Eaton. The population of the township in 1851 was 443, and the hamlet 241; in 1891 the township 445, and the hamlet 241 souls. The parish is bounded on the north, by Fenny Stratford; on the south, by Newton Longville and Stoke Hammond; on the West by Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe; and on the east by Little Brickhill.

The village is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west by south from Fenny Stratford, 8 miles south from Newport Pagnell, and 7 south-east from Stony Stratford. It is scattered and consists chiefly of thatched cottages with several good modern villa residences, and it is in two sections known as the "town" and the "green," which are nearly half a mile apart.

Bletchley is in the union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, head of a rural deanery, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

Bletchley comprised, "East and West Bletchley, the vills of Water Eaton, and the west side of Fenny Stratford which lay on the London road. Blecheley signifies the bleak or cold place or meadow. Eton, or Eaton, a town of water" (Cole). There is no mention of Bletchley or Fenny Stratford in Domesday book, they were then included in Water Eaton. East Bletchley, or the "Green," is near the church; here there once stood a cross, also two hillocks, or butts for archery practice which were levelled in 1711, by Browne Willis. Embedded in them were found several of the iron parts or heads of arrows.

In 1712, the parish was assessed to the land tax at £368/18/1 $\frac{1}{2}$. There were 200 families, viz. 71 in Bletchley; 73 in Fenny Stratford; 46 in Water Eaton, besides two houses in Bletchley Leas (West Leas mentioned in the parish register in 1594), about three miles from the church, and five houses in the manor grounds. In this population of about 900, one was a papist; one family and three single persons, quakers; and three families and three single persons, anabaptists. In 1600, the population was about 600; in 1627, about 720; in 1650, about 900; in 1680, about 780.

Manorial History of Bletchley and Water Eaton.

Water Eaton, although in modern times considered as a hamlet to Bletchley, was anciently once the principal manor; and is recorded among the lands bestowed by the Conqueror on Geoffrey, bishop of Constance in Normandy, one of those military ecclesiastics who accompanied him in his invasion of England. It is described as holden by

the bishop himself, and taxed as ten hides. There were eighteen carucates, of which four were in the demesne; and thirty-five villeins with six bordars, having fourteen carucates. There were twelve servants, one mill of 20/- rent; and twelve carucates of pasture. Altogether valued at £12; when the bishop first held it £8; and in the time of king Edward, £10. This manor was holden in the Saxon times by Eddeva (Edith), who could sell it to whom she would.

The lands of the bishop of Constance reverted to the crown in the reign of William Rufus; for the bishop, having retired into Normandy before the death of the Conqueror, took part with Robert his eldest son in the dispute respecting the succession to the English throne, by which he lost all his lands in the power of Rufus.

Water Eaton (including Fenny Stratford and Church Bletchley) was next granted out by the crown, probably as early as the commencement of the reign of Henry I. The grant was made in the favour of a family named Cauz; and Geoffrey de Cauz held these lands, by the serjeanty of keeping the king's hawks. It appears from subsequent records, that two hides of land in Ludgershall were included in the grant, perhaps for the purpose of keeping some of hawks near the royal manor of Brill, and the forest of Bernwood.

In consequence of this tenure, no mention of it is discovered in the certificates of knight's-fees returned to Henry II., on the marriage of his daughter which are preserved in the Liber Niger; but in the Red Book of the Exchequer, which records the honorary serjeanties as well as the military services, it is stated, that in 1210, Roger de Cauz then held Eton, in the year 1114. This family continued to hold these lands till the reign of Henry III., and unquestionably built the church of Bletchley, for Roger de Cauz presented Walter de Cauz, probably his kinsman, to that church in 1220.

Soon after this time, Water Eaton, Bletchley, and Fenny Stratford ceased to belong to this family; for in the Testa de Nevil, which was compiled in the first part of the reign of Henry III., Eton (which is supposed to have always included Fenny Stratford) was holden by Sir John de Grey, by serjeanty, as also Bletchley by the fourth part of a knight's-fee of the Honor of Winchester; from which circumstance, it appears that Church Bletchley was not included in the serjeanty, but was holden by military service; and this entry cannot be applied to West Bletchley, which is uniformly stated in all the inquisitions relating to it, to have been holden of the Honor of Giffard, &c.

This is the earliest mention of the family of Grey in any known record as connected with Water Eaton; and therefore, if the heralds be correct in their statement that the family of Grey flourished here as early as the time of Rufus, they must have been then merely the feudatory tenant of the family of Cauz; a circumstance, however, by no means improbable, as the feudatory tenant, if a man of family, frequently, in those times, in the event of a forfeiture or escheat, obtained those lands to hold in chief of the crown, which he had before possessed as the mesne lord only.

Sir John de Grey bore for arms: Barry of six arg. and az. in chief,

three *torteaux*, with a label of three points, gu. as a difference from Grey of Codnor, the elder branch of the family.

This Sir John de Grey was the second son of Henry de Grey, lord of Codnor, and sheriff for the counties of Buckingham and Bedford, in 1238. He was afterwards constable of Gannoe in North Wales, and justice of Chester; and obtained a grant of land in Ross Kewennyoe, Dyffrenclloyd, Englefield (Chester), and North Wales to hold as a fee-farm rent.

In 1250, Sir John de Grey purchased of the Lady Joan Peyvre, widow of Paulin Peyvre, the marriage of her son for 500 marks, and married him to his own daughter; and he himself, the same year, married the Lady Joan for his second wife.

In the following year he agreed to attend the king on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land; was soon afterwards governor of Northampton castle; and constituted steward of all Gascoigne, when the king was at Bordeaux, but resigned that office from sickness; and in 1255, on account of his age and infirmities, withdrew himself from public life. In the war with the rebellious barons, he remained loyal to the king, and was sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derby. He died in 1266, leaving Reginald his son and heir, and a daughter, married to Robert de Tatshall, then possessed of the manors of Eaton, Great Brickhill, Wavendon, Weston, and Snellson in Lavendon; and Wrest, Lee, Brockborough, and Henlow, in the county of Bedford. The vast number of law-suits in which he was engaged with almost all the neighbourhood in which he lived, are strong evidences of a turbulent and despotic disposition. He appears to have resided partly in Lavendon parish, and partly at Water Hall, which stood in the meadows about midway between Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford bridge. In what manner he had become possessed of his several estates can only be matter of conjecture. Eaton, including Church Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, he had probably obtained from the crown, on their escheating from the family of Cauz. Wavendon, Weston, and Snelleston, had been the lands of Paulin Peyvre, and must therefore have been acquired by the marriage of his widow. It would be very bold to hazard any opinion as to how he acquired Great Brickhill.

He had a grant in 1269, of free-warren in all his demesne lands in Bucks and other counties, confirmatory of former grants; and also a charter for a fair at Fenny Stratford, which is the first time that place occurs by name in any record.

Sir John de Grey, by his first wife, Emma, daughter and co-heiress of Geoffrey de Glanville, left Reginald, his eldest son and heir; who married Matilda, daughter and heir of William Fitzhugh, of Chester, by Maud, daughter and heiress of Henry de Longchamp, lord of Wilton-upon-Wye, Herefordshire; by which marriage he became possessed of that castle, and was summoned to Parliament, as Baron Grey de Wilton, from 1294 till 1307, when he died possessed of Water Eaton, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley, Great Brickhill, and Simpson manors; leaving John his son and heir, then 40 years of age. This Reginald was, on the death of his father, sheriff of Nottingham and Derby, and governor of Nottingham castle; and soon after, had all the government of the

castle of Northampton. In 1280, he was justice of Chester, and part of the Honour of Monmouth was given him by the king; and in the following year, farther remuneration for his eminent services, he had conferred upon him, the castle of Ruthyn and Cantred of Dyffrynclloyd.

John de Grey had been very active in the king's service during the lifetime of his father, and attended him in the Wars of Scotland in the 7th and 8th years of his reign; and in the 10th, he was made justice of North Wales, and governor of the castle of Carnarvon. In 1323, he died possessed of the manors of Eaton, Fenny Stratford, and Bletchley; and also of Great Brickhill, Simpson, Walton, Woolstone, Stoke-Hammond, and Simpson, in this county; besides the castles of Wilton and Ruthyn, and other manors.

In Blout's Tenures, a book of good authority, cited by Lyons, it is stated, that the manor of Water Eaton was held by the service of keeping a falcon for flight, for the king's use; and for the charges of keeping it, the lord was entitled, on the day that he carried it to court, to a horse with its equipage; the king's table, with the tressels and table cloth; all the vessels with which the king was served on that day; and a cask of wine as soon as the king had tasted it. The manor of Water Hall was held by the service of finding a man on a horse without a saddle, a bow without a string, and an arrow without a head. It appears to have been about this period that the manors of Water Eaton, Bletchley Water Hall, &c., became united in a single possessor, and so remained until the beginning of the reign of James I.

In 1568, Queen Elizabeth, by patent, reciting that divers tenements in Simpson, Bletchley, Bow Brickhill, and Cotmanfield, Bucks, were in great ruin and decay, and that Arthur, lord Grey of Wilton, in consideration of a lease, would repair the same, demised to the said lord Grey, for a fine of £15/17/5 paid at the Exchequer, all such messuages and tenements, cum pert, in the several tenures of Henry Reade, Sewell Willyatt, Agnes Scarlet, widow, Thomas Phillipps, Richard Bryan, William Bonfield, and William Sutton, in the parishes of Simpson, Bletchley, Bow Brickhill, and Cotmanfield; also a message, house, and tenement, called brotherhood-house, parcel of the brotherhood or guild of SS. Margaret and Catherine, in Stony Stratford, and all other hereditaments to the said brotherhood in Bow Brickhill; an annual rent of five shillings, out of a close in Water Eaton, in the occupation of Thomas Grace, to the same guild belonging, excepting trees, mines, and quarries, to the said lord Grey, from Lady Day, for twenty-one years, at £5/5/9½ per annum, and to pay also to Sir John Gresham, knight, and his heirs, three shillings and a penny out of the lands and tenement in the occupation of Henry Reade; and two shillings and seven pence out of the premises in the occupation of Sewell Willyatt; and six shillings one penny three farthings, out of the lands in the occupation of Agnes Scarlet, Thomas Phillipps, and Richard Bryan: and the tenement called the Brotherhood; to the said Arthur, lord Grey, and his heirs.

In 1615, the king inter alia, demised to the Lady Jane Sibille Grey, the manors of Eaton, Bletchley, and Fenny Stratford; also messuages, lands, &c., and the advowson of the parish church; with one messuage,

two cottages, lands, and tenements, in Brickhill Parva, &c., parcel of the possessions of Thomas, late lord Grey, attained, "si tam dici innupta," for thirty-one years at £500 per annum; and after the decease of the said Lady Jane Sibille Grey, in 1616, the king granted all the forfeited estates of the Greys, to his new favourite, George Villiers; after which, Water Eaton manor descended with Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

Browne Willis was succeeded in his estate by his grandson Thomas, son of Thomas Willis, by his first wife Ann, daughter of John Hulme of Davy Hulme, Lancashire. Thomas Willis died, 22 July 1762, aged 24, at Bristol Wells, where he had removed from Stoneham, Hants, about a month before, for the benefit of the waters, being in a deep consumption, caused by the too free use of liquors. He left a natural child by a maid-servant of his grandfather's, then living at Whaddon, her name was Ann Stokes of Newton Longville. As he died single, he left his half-brother John, then at Eton school, his heir to his estates in Lancashire, which came by his own and sister's mother, and at Bletchley, which came to him by descent from his father, and charged it with a large debt to pay his sister Anne an additional sum of £15,000 over what had been left her by their father, which was £5,000. If he had not cut off the entail of the Bletchley estate of about £1,000 per annum, the year before he died, it would have gone to his first cousin Thomas Willis, son to his father's brother Henry, who practised physic and who left a widow and this son utterly unprovided for. Anne (Willis), who died childless two years after her brother, was the wife of Captain Smith of Gloucestershire, to whom she left all her fortune of £20,000 (Cole).

Ecclesiastical History of Bletchley.

In 1704, Browne Willis, LL.D. lord of the manor and patron of the church, obtained a faculty for enlarging the church, and making a burial place in the north aisle for himself and family.

In 1712, the living was worth £200 a year with three acres of glebe land, and a house. Mr. Disney's father bought the living for £300 for his son, before the estate was purchased by Dr. Willis. In the King's books it was anciently valued at £29/13/1½.

A terrier made in 1724, describing the emoluments of the rectory, the parsonage appears to have been a spacious residence; with some exceptions the greater part of the parish paid tithe in kind, viz., tenth sheaf, etc. For milk, two pence was paid for a milch cow. Eggs were paid for the Wednesday before Easter, at the rate of two eggs for a hen and three for a cock. Honey and calves paid at the rate of the tenth penny they were sold for, etc. Neither flax nor hemp was grown, and the keeping of geese was prohibited. The rector, according to custom, finds one bull and one boar, and if willing to keep two bulls on Blechley Leys, he is allowed four cow-commons there. Another terrier, dated 1822, gives in detail the lands allotted in lieu of tithes, by the commissioners of the Bletchley enclosure in 1815.

The present rectory house is a commodious residence, erected in 1834, and pleasantly situated, near the church, in its own grounds. The

living is now valued at £630 per annum, and is in the gift of J. Bennitt, Esq.

Rectors of Bletchley.

REGINALD occurs in 1196.

GERALDUS occurs in 1213.

WALTERUS, presented in 1220, by Roger de Cawz, knight. His successor was

WILL. DE BRICKHULLE, sub-diaconus, presented 9 October 1227, by lord Reginald de Grey.

JOHN DE STOKES, presented 3 June 1318, by John de Grey, knight.

ALMARICUS DE SHIRLAND, instituted June 1349, on the presentation of Roger de Grey, Dni de Wilton super Vagam. He exchanged it for Wymondham, Norfolk, with

NICHOLAS DE HULME who was presented 5 July 1350; but he soon quitted it, to JOHN CALDECOTE; who exchanged for Bokesworth, Cambridgeshire, with

WILLIAM LAMBERT, 11 October 1351. He died 1360, prebendary of the 12th stall in St. Stephen's college, in Westminster; and exchanged for Lambeth rectory, with

THOMAS DE ELTESLE, Junr., 7 December 1358. He was, 1352, made first master of St. Benet's college, Cambridge, and died 1376; being succeeded by

ROBERT DE SHETLEY, instituted 9 August 1362, on the presentation of Reginald de Grey, lord de Wilton. He died and

WILLIAM HEULETT was instituted 16 April 1364; on the presentation of Reginald de Grey de Wilton. He was, 1386, prebendary of Empingham, in Lincoln cathedral; and afterwards, 1388, of Langford manor.

WILLIAM STYVECLE, or STEWKLEY, LL.B. prebendary of Wenlake's barn, in St. Paul's cathedral, London, was presented by the king, 2 November 1396. He was also rector of Glatton, Hunts, and canon of St David's. He was born at Stukeley, Hunts.

THOMAS LEYS, presented 24 June 1407, by the king.

JOHN BERNARD, died rector here 1419. He was prebendary of South Scarle, in Lincoln cathedral, which he exchanged in 1408, for a prebend of Langchester, with the above Thomas Leys.

WILLIAM ETON, instituted 31 January 1419, on the presentation of Richard, lord de Wilton.

ROGER ETON, occurs rector 1442. He died, and

DAVID HOPTON was presented by Edward IV., on the grant of Reginald de Grey, lord of Wilton, and instituted 5 November 1477. He succeeded, 18 September 1480, to the prebend of Colwall, alias Barton, in the cathedral church of Hereford, on the promotion of Edmund Audley to the bishoprick of Rochester, having been previously prebendary of Nonnington.

RICHARD MAY, LL.B., was presented 16 May 1485, by Sir Reginald de Grey, knight. He died in 1526.

WILLIAM WEBSTER, LL.B., was instituted 18 February 1526, on a grant from Edmund, lord Grey of Wilton, on the presentation of Agnes Poulteney. He died about June 1545 and appointed to be buried in Bletchley chancel.

ROBERT CHETYLL, B.A., (called Sir Robert Chadesle), was instituted 9 July 1545, on the presentation of William, lord Grey. He occurs rector in 1548.

JOHN GARNET was instituted 10 July 1549.

WILLIAM PRIESTWICK, B.A., presented 18 January 1558. He occurs rector 1559; and was also rector of Gothurst.

JOHN HIGGINS was instituted 20 August 1561.

THOMAS SPARKE, B.D., of Magdalen college, Oxford, was instituted 2 September 1578, on the presentation of Arthur, lord Grey. He was collated to the archdeaconry of Stowe, in the church of Lincoln, 6 March 1575, but quitted it after he was made rector of Bletchley, where he died and was buried in the chancel of the church, 17 October 1716.

WILLIAM SPARKE, M.A., of Magdalen college, Oxford, his son, presented 1616,

and who was chaplain to the duke of Buckingham. He was forced to quit it, being involved in debt; and died rector of Chenies, where he was buried 22 October 1641. He was succeeded by

EDWARD TAYLER M.A., of St. John's college, Cambridge, instituted 22 May 1641-2, on the presentation of the earl of Bedford, who was complimented by the duke of Buckingham's family with this turn. He was buried here 24 June 1693; and succeeded by

MATTHEW DISNEY M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, instituted 19 July 1693, on the presentation of Edward Bate, in trust for this turn, by Thomas Willis, the patron. He died 22 January 1715, and was buried in the chancel here, being succeeded by

EDWARD WELLS, S.T.P., instituted 28 March 1716, on the presentation of Browne Willis. He died 11 July 1727, and was buried at Cotesbach; being succeeded by

MARTIN BENSON who was the son of the Rev. John Benson, prebendary of Hereford, was born at Cradley, Hereford, on 23 April 1689, and baptised on the 25th. His mother was Catherine, daughter of Benjamm Martin, of Oxford, and he was grandson of George Benson, dean of Hereford, by Catherine, daughter of Samuel Fell, dean of Christ Church, Oxford. Dr. Browne Willis's grandmother was Mary, another daughter of dean Fell's, this relationship increased, no doubt, the partiality shown by Dr. Willis for his illustrious relative. Dr. Benson was educated at the Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford. He was ordained priest, 13 March 1715, and made Prebendary of Salisbury in 1720; archdeacon of Berks in 1721; prebendary of Durham in 1723; chaplain to the king in 1727; rector of Blechley, 9 January 1727; created D.D. Cantab. 1731; and consecrated bishop of Gloucester, 19 January 1734. After taking orders he travelled with Lord Pomfret. He married the sister of Thomas Secker, archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. Benson was held in high esteem, he was a man of deep and unaffected piety and great generosity. He revived the office of "rural dean," and spent much money in repairing Gloucester choir and episcopal palace. Exhausted, as was thought, by attending bishop Butler in his last illness, he died 30 August 1752, universally lamented, and was buried in his cathedral. Berkeley called him "Titus, the delight of mankind." He ordained George Whitfield and afterwards expressed sorrow for having done so.

JOHN WILLIS B.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, collated by the bishop of Lincoln, on a lapse, 20 December 1735; inducted 24 December; he died 24 July 1741, and was buried at Flixton, in Lincolnshire.

WILLIAM WELLBOURN, instituted 15 March 1741. He soon resigned; and died rector of Wendleburg, Oxford, 1764.

ELLIOT WILLIS, of Trinity College, Oxford, inducted 28 September 1744; died 14 July 1752, aged 33, and was buried at Blechley.

WILLIAM COLE, M.A., presented by Browne Willis, 17 January 1753. He resigned in 1768. An animated description of Cole's personal appearance, by Sir John Cullum, represents him as not less whimsical in his dress than his friend Browne Willis. His description of Willis in Bowyer's life, falls short of his own: "the only time I had the pleasure of seeing him, he had as many envelopes as an onion. It was a very warm autumnal day, when he and three more came in a coach-and-four from Cambridge to dine at Barrow parsonage. As soon as he was unpacked, he threw off a rug-surtout, and entered the parlour invested with waistcoat, coat, greatcoat, Master of Art's gown, and Hussar cloak, the inferior parts defended with boots, stockings, galoches; but, with all his incumbrances, he was in perfect good humour, and very cheerful company." He was educated at Clare Hall and then Fellow Commoner of King's college, Cambridge. He was a very industrious collector of papers and notes; and his carefully written manuscripts, in sixty volumes, were bequeathed by him to the British Museum. Coles Ms.s. No. 5,821, contains descriptions and history of Blechley and Fenny Stratford, and the neighbourhood, in addition much more information can be found scattered about other volumes. Cole wrote many descriptions of his neighbours which were not all complimentary. These bits of bygone scandal and personal animosity or scorn form amusing interludes in his more serious writings. He wrote

a lengthy and interesting account of the manœuvres which preceded his presentation to the rectory of Bletchley. Dr. Browne Willis, who liked to be courted and flattered, wanted Cole to ask him for Bletchley; and Cole on the other hand was determined that the patron should come to him, as he knew that Browne Willis much desired to have him (Cole) at Bletchley because of his kindred tastes and pursuits. Cole died in 1782.

THOMAS WILLIS, M.A., grandson of Browne Willis, presented by Richard and William Lowndes (Mr. Willis's trustees), and inducted 2 May 1768. At his death

EDWARD ORLEBAR SMITH, M.A., was presented by John Fleming, of Stoneham Park in the county of Southampton (brother and devisee of Thomas Willis), and inducted 2 July 1790. He was also rector of Bradenham (which he vacated for this living) and Hulcot, with Salford, Beds, in his own patronage. He died 19 April 1819, aged 72 years, and was buried at Hulcot. At his death, he was succeeded by

RICHARD MIDGLEY, M.A. (Perpetual curate of Fenny Stratford), on the same patronage, and inducted 27 October 1819. He died at Lymington in November 1832, his successor being

THOMAS DELVES BROUGHTON, M.A., also presented by John Fleming, of Stoneham Park. He died 10 August 1859, aged 58, and was buried at Bletchley.

WILLIAM BENNITT, M.A., of Trinity College, Oxford, was presented in 1861.

St. Mary's Church, Bletchley.

The parish church of Bletchley is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is situated on rising ground to the north of the village, in the middle of a fair sized churchyard. The oldest tombstones are south of the church; the more recent and later interments being on the north side. There are several headstones recording violent and accidental deaths. The yard is nearly full and requires extension

The entrance to the church is on the south side, through an avenue of six fine and ancient yew trees which form an approach of uncommon and impressive beauty.

The church consists of a chancel with north chapel, clerestoried nave with aisles, south porch, and west tower.

The chancel east window is of five lights with decorated tracery filled with stained glass illustrating the Nativity. In the south wall is the priest's door, two windows with decorated tracery; and the uncommon feature of four sedilia, parted from each other by small stone shafts with Early English capitals. The reredos is of stone, and modern, and unworthy of mention but for the fact of its obtrusive unsuitability. The altar is of modern oak. The brass alms dish has the date 1711, and is inscribed "The gift of Mrs. K. Willis." The ceiling of the chancel is in twelve compartments, each containing a full length painting of an apostle, over the east end is painted the Holy Name in Hebrew, encircled with a glory and cherubim. The choir seats are of oak, and are returned against the low oak chancel screen. The north side of the chancel is formed by a doorway close to the east wall, then a short length of wall containing a niche, probably for a piscina, then a 14th century arcade of two bays, the pillar capital has the ball-flower ornament, and the demi-capital against the eastern respond has the dog-tooth ornament. The nave is of four bays, the arcades are not equal in division into arches, and the south arcade is also lower than the north, and the spandrils are pierced with quatrefoil openings into the south aisle. All the pillars are 14th century, octagonal with

moulded capitals, the arches being recessed with chamfered edges. Clerestory windows are quite plain. There is a north door, and the east window of the south aisle has flamboyant tracery and is filled with inferior stained glass. All the other windows are square-headed, and probably 15th century. The south doorway is the oldest part of the church; the arch is pointed and ornamented with the "beak-head" as low as the impost, the jambs are moulded; and dates from the 12th century. The south porch is of stone, with seats and side windows, and is large and embattled.

The chapel, north of the chancel, is continuous with the north aisle, in the wall is an arched recess containing a coffin stone with a raised floriated cross. There is also a piscina and an ambry. The windows are square-headed, of three lights trefoiled in the head, excepting the east window, which has decorated tracery. The chapel contains the organ and is used as a vestry. The font is a plain stone basin on a cylindrical shaft. The west tower is embattled with diagonal buttresses and a south-west stair turret rising above the battlements, the west window is of four lights, sub-arcuated, with perpendicular tracery; and contains a clock and eight bells.

In 1629, there were only four bells, and they were then taken down and re-cast into five. After Browne Willis had finished his thorough reparation of the church he turned his attention to the bells in 1712, in which year, on St. John the Baptist's day (24 June) the five old bells "being very untunable" were taken down and with 18cwt. of additional metal were delivered to Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, on 2 July, in order to be re-cast into six, at which time the weight of the said five bells was :

			Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
First, or treble	..	..	5	2	24
Second	..	..	6	2	8
Third	..	..	8	1	0
Fourth	..	..	10	1	1
Fifth, or tenor	..	..	12	1	2

Total weight....43 0 7

The charge for recasting and adding two trebles was :

18cwt. of additional metal cost with the carriage of it from Arlesey, co. Bedf.	£65	16	0
Carriage of five old bells and new metal to Gloucester, and bringing them back when cast into six.	£22	15	0
Paid to John and Richard William, of King's Sutton, co. Northton, for taking down the old five and making frames for eight bells and hanging same.	£35	7	6
Paid to Will Grace, smith of Bletchley, for ironwork, etc., about the bells.	£9	13	0
Paid for timber, bought at Beachampton, for the frames and carriage thereof, and for screws bought at London, brasses, etc., at least	£25	0	0
Paid Rudhall for about 10cwt. of metal to make the trebles	£64	10	0
Paid Rudhall for casting the bells.	£53	15	0
Paid for the carriage of the two trebles from Gloucester, and of a new tenor and y ^e tenor y ^t was first cast to be charged	£15	10	0
Total,	£292	6	6

N.B.—To the expence of the bells the Parish rais'd and paid £40, but £20 thereof being assessed upon the benefactor's tenants he was forc'd to make severall abatements to them, and great part also being spent by the churchwardens in junquetting and great allowances being made by them to the parish Clerk for oyl and finding bell ropes, etc., scarce half thereof was regularly applied to the uses mentioned above.

Paid to Haines of Allesbury's executrix for making chimes to go on the	
eight said bells to the 113 Psalm tune, etc.	£10 10 0
Paid to Edw. Forfeit, of Stony Stratford, for painting over anew the figures	
of Time and Death, etc.	£5 5 0
Paid to John Ellis and Richard Smith, mason, for work about the steeple,	
etc.	£6 14
Gave to Kitchener, of Olney, for tuning the bells.	£2 0 0

The tenor bell was subsequently re-cast at about twenty pound expence to Browne Willis.

When finished in 1713, the peal was as follows :

			Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
First, or treble	..	..	5	0	12
Second	..	..	5	0	17
Third	..	..	5	3	17
Fourth	..	..	6	3	18
Fifth	..	..	7	3	20
Sixth	..	..	8	3	26
Seventh	..	..	11	0	26
Eighth, or tenor	..	..	17	0	12
Total weight....			61	3	18

The bells are inscribed as follows :

First : GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH. A R 1717.

Second : NOW PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD. A : R 1713.

Third : QUOD SIT SACRA DIES PRIMO DENUNTIO MANE A : R 1712

Fourth : AD TEMPLUM PER ME POPULUS PROPERARE MONETUR
1712.

Fifth : PULSA VOCO PLEBEM TRACTARE NEGOTIA VILLÆ 1712.
A : R.

Sixth : ROBERT STAINBANK, FOUNDER, LONDON, 1867.

Seventh : R : TAYLOR & SONS : OXFORD. MDCCCXXVII.

Eighth : BY MESSRS. GILLET AND JOHNSON, 1893.

In 1893, the bells were re-hung and repaired by Messrs. Gillett & Johnson, of Croydon, at a cost of £125. The bells were taken out, quarter turned, and the clappers re-welded, and the frame repaired and strengthened. The tenor was re-cast at a cost of £40, and now weighs 16cwt. 1qr. 4lbs., with a mouth measurement of $44\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Externally the church is embattled throughout; it is rubble built with Ashlar quoins and dressings. At the east end of the church there is a chalice carved on one of the battlements. The buttresses have one set off and do not reach to the parapet. Internally, it has about 450 sittings on oak benches, placed there in 1868, when the church was restored. The rest of the furniture is good, the stone pulpit, with figures, is the gift of the Rev. William Bennitt, M.A., rector, and the

brass lectern has been recently given by the Rev. A. Webber and Mrs. E. M. Holdom, in memory of their late father.

There are several monuments; the chiefest being the altar tomb with a recumbent effigy, in white marble, of Richard, lord Grey of Wilton. This tomb is placed in the arcade between the chancel and the north chapel. It is decorated with six shields of arms in quatrefoils: Barry of six arg. and az. in chief three torteaux, a label of five points gu. The inscription is: "In hac eccl. jacet sepult Richard Dom. Grey. Baro. Grey de Wilton qui obiit apud Water Hall. 1442." The effigy is in plate armour with the head resting on the helmet, and the feet on a lion, the sword and gauntlets are at the side. The effigy was recut at the expense of Dr. Willis by Weston, the statuary, who was paid three pounds.

In the sanctuary are two black marble stones with long inscriptions and coats of arms, placed over the bodies of Thos. Willis, Esq., and his wife Alice, parents of Dr. B. Willis. These stones cost £22.

In the north chapel, which was the burial place of the Willis family, is an altar tomb with tinctured shields of arms to Mrs. Browne Willis. The epitaph states that both she and her husband "were descended from the antient Lords of this and the adjoining parish of Whaddon, where departing this life at Whaddon Hall, October 2d Anno 1724, æt 38." There are memorials also to other members of the family.

In the north chapel is a marble shield: Arg. two cotises sable in sinister chief a martlet of the last impaling arg. on a chevron between three pellets sable as many crescents of the field. This shield is all that remains of a peculiar monument that formerly existed in the chancel, erected to Mrs. Faith Taylor by her husband Edward Taylor, M.A., rector. "Mrs Taylor was the daughter of William Walker, minister of Chisweeke, co. Midd. and grandchild of the Rev. Rob. Key, minister of Ware, co. Herts. She died 22 July 1657, age 47." (Cole).

There are shaped depressions in the stones of the chancel floor from which brasses have been removed. The only brass left in the church is that on the north wall of the chancel, to the memory of Dr. Thomas Sparke, rector. This singular memorial is 13 inches by 15 inches. It is finely engraved and defies the most expert attempts at rubbing. From the style of the work its execution is attributed to Dr. Haydock, who engraved a similar, but larger, memorial to Erasmus Wilson, in Tingewick church. The one under notice shows in the upper part a small urn engraved "Non extincta sepulta licet Scintilla familia est," into this a skeleton is shovelling with a spade engraved "Mors tegit." Verbal puns, clouds, trumpets, etc., fill in the spare space; in the middle of the lower half is a portrait of Dr. Sparke, with Latin verses and his family dispersed around; also two small shields, one being inscribed "Scutu' fidei," and the other "Arma nostra sunt spiritualia," which apparently indicate the deceased's indifference to the worldly vanity of armorial bearings, probably because he was not entitled to them. He died 1616. There is also a tablet to Dr. Sparke's wife, Rose, daughter of Andrew Inckforby of Ipswich, she died 7 August 1615, aged 68, after forty years of married life, during which she had ten children, five

of whom survived her.

There is also on the east wall of the north chapel a small group of carved figures, consisting of a man with eight children, all kneeling. This group was brought from the old church at Deptford by Browne Willis, who said he was induced to do so because he also had eight children.

There is preserved, at the rectory, a manuscript book of vellum, bequeathed to the rectors by Browne Willis, containing an account of the restoration and of the repair of the church by him during the years 1704-9, and "the reasons thereunto moving." The filial piety of Browne Willis was the cause of the elaborate re-edification described, his parents being buried in the chancel, his father in 1699, and his mother in 1700; she apparently died in her confinement of a posthumous child. He judged "how incongruous it would be for him to cover the remains of his parents with marble statues or fine embellishments whilst other parts of God's House in which they lay wanted both a requisite decency," etc. The expenditure detailed amounted to over £1,300, and the description of the condition of the edifice shows how needful a judicious reparation was.

According to modern ideas much that was done by Browne Willis verged on the disastrous. He only acted according to the taste of his age, and his sham classicalisms would not now be tolerated in a Gothic building. "The chancel had a bad roof and unlevell floor, the communion table standing (in a dinner posture) in the middle thereof. . . . Windows stopt up with brick, the monions and jambs being shattered The nave was very much decayed and for its undecency obnoxious to the censure of the ordinary," etc. There was nothing in repair save the nave roof which had been leaded in 1629, by the duke of Buckingham.

The church was plastered inside and painted with sham curtains round the windows, a west gallery built, the pillars painted to represent marble, in addition to the structural repairs. A chancel screen, reading desk, pulpit, seats, and carved altar-piece of Norway oak were provided; also well bound service books, including "a Bible of the best print which belonged to king Charles I., bound in crimson velvet and ornamented with plates of silver," which cost £6/5/-. Pinnacles were added to the tower which have since been removed, etc.

*The Parish Registers of Bletchley.**

The old parish register of Bletchley is contained in six books, viz. :

- Book 1, 14½ inches high by 10½ inches wide, containing 41 parchment leaves in parchment covers; begins 2 October 1577; ends 1653.
- Book 2, 10½ inches by 8½ inches, containing 12 parchment leaves, with a wrapper on one side only; begins 28 September 1653; ends 1664.
- Book 3, 13 inches by 8½ inches, containing 58 parchment leaves and four paper leaves added at the end, in leather-covered boards, which were once furnished with clasps. The clasps are now gone, with one-third of the leather covering the front cover; begins 27 March 1665; ends 1743.

* This and preceeding chapter were entirely written and supplied by Dr. Bradbrook of Bletchley.

Book 4, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, containing 44 parchment leaves in leather-covered boards; begins 5 April 1744; ends 1787.

Book 5, 15 inches by 10 inches, containing 23 parchment leaves in leather-covered boards, with two clasps. A large number of leaves have been cut out at the end; begins 5 February 1788; ends November 1812.

Book 6, is the marriage book from 1754.

After 1812, the registers are of the well-known pattern in general use, Book 1, is headed:

The Register Booke for the pishe of Bletchley in the Countie of Bucks, conteyninge all the names of such as have been christened married or Buried sins the monthe of October in the yere of our lorde god 1577 within the said pishe and hamlets to the same belonginge.

The book is well written, and is in the same hand writing from the commencement up to 1601, evidently having been transcribed from the older paper register in obedience to the order issued in 1597 and 1603. The register is signed from the beginning to 1616 by Thomas Sparke, the rector; his burial is thus entered:

O ϕ . 17. Mr. Dcor Sparke Pastor of Bletchley bur. 1616.

The first entry is, 1577 October 2: "Willm the sonn of henri Banberye was Baptized. The same day Richard the sonne of martin the clerk was Baptized." There are subsequent entries concerning the family of Martin, the clerk. He is at last referred to as Martin Register; as, 1582, June 17, Ann, the daughter of Martin Register, baptized. This may be regarded as an instance of the acquirement of a surname from occupation. 1595, July 4, Marian the wyfe of Martin Register was buried.

In this book are recorded 379 marriages; 1,247 burials, of which 629 were men, and 618 women. Included in this number are, at least, 194 burials of infants under one year, viz., 113 boys, and 81 girls.

The entries of baptism number 1,904, viz., 984 males, and 920 females.

Twenty pairs of twins are noted; in 12 cases both children were girls, in three cases both were boys, in three cases boy and girl; in the remaining two cases the sex is not noted, as they were stillborn.

From 1577 to 1631, 38 burials of stillborn infants are registered; they are not included in the number above tabulated. At least 16 of the deaths of women registered occurred as the result of childbirth.

1587, Mar. 15, Willm de skoollem of Bletchley and Joan Pennington wer married. This mention of the schoolmaster proves the existence of a school, probably of that mentioned by Cole (Mss. B.M.) in 1712—"20 children put to Schole and taught at the charge of the Lord of the Manor and Minister."

The "West Leys" are first mentioned in 1594. This district is about two miles and a half from the church and appears to have always had two or three cottages there. The parish was made up of East and West Bletchley, the vills of Water Eaton, and the west side of Fenny Stratford, which side lay on the London road (Watling Street); the

east side of Fenny Stratford, that is, that part of the hamlet to the east of the London road, is in the parish of Simpson.

In 1599, the mention of John ye miller, of Eaton, indicates the source of a surname for John, and the existence of a water-mill on the Lovat or Ousel, a stream which bounds the parish on that side; it crosses the London road at Fenny Stratford; and on August 2, 1631, was buried an unknown stranger, drowned at Stratford Bridge. This shows that the "ford" to which Fenny Stratford owes its name had been replaced by a bridge before that date.

Book II., is headed :

Sworn and approved of Thomas Waldoock of Blechley to bee parish Register for the towne and pish of Blechley aforesaid according to the free choise of the said pishones to Register all Births, Marriages & Burialls according to the late Act of Parliament. Given under my hand the day and yeare abovesaid. Hen. Whitbread.

Edward Taylor, Minister. Thomas Walduck, Regester for the parrish of Blechly, 1653. John Chapman, Edward Phillips, Edward Allin, Church Wardins.

This book was initiated as the result of the ascendancy (politically) of the Commonwealth. The duties of registration formerly performed by the clergy had, in very many instances, as the result of the late successful rebellion, not being carried out. To remedy this, and provide the necessary machinery, the Act of 1653 provided for the election by the parishioners of civil registers or, as we now incorrectly style them, registrars, the official whose business it would be to record births, not baptisms; and marriages by justices of the peace.

The first entry is 1653, Sept. 28. Elizabeth Spendlow, daughter of Thomas Spendlow, of Water Eaton, was borne September the 28. In 1660, baptisms are again recorded, and "borne" disappears.

1660, April 28. John the Sonne of Nicolas Goodspeed of Bletchly buried on the backside of his house in his Orchard. This indicates the right of disposal how one likes, of one's own dead. The name "Goodspeed," or "Godspeed," is just the sort of assumed name that was not uncommon among the schismatics of the age, and the owner thereof may have objected to the interment in consecrated ground.

This book contains 59 marriage entries. There are 350 entries of burials, 189 of males, and 161 of females; including 18 males and 14 females obviously under one year old. The entries of infants, born or baptised, are 346 (not including 14 stillborn), viz., 175 boys and 171 girls.

Twins occur eight times; in three cases both the infants were girls; in two cases, both boys; and in three cases, girl and boy. One case of triplets is entered in 1660, one boy and two girls; they were born alive and baptized, but all died, and the mother also.

1660, Feb. 22. Briget the wife and Timothy the sonne Briget and Elizabeth the daughters of Thomas Norman of Bletchley buried all in one grave and all in one coffin.

At least seven of the deaths are those of women in childbirth.

The last two or three leaves of Book II. are damaged, and somewhat difficult to decipher.

Book III., is well written, and for many years records such extra details as the trade or occupation and residence; also the name of the infant's mother in baptismal entries. The first entry is 1665, May 18. Willm fellow and Bridget Norman married. 1665, March 27. Willm the sonne of Willm Underwood and of Alice his wife of Bletchly, baptised. This surname occurs in earlier years as "under-the-wood."

The burial entries of 1665 are headed thus:

Luke 13, ver. 4, 5. Think ye that they were sinners above all of them that dwelt in Jerusalem, upon whom the Tower of Siloe fell. I tell you nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.

Then follows a list of 126 burials, mostly deaths from the plague. The deaths occurred chiefly in the months of August, September, and October, and the epidemic appears to have affected both the hamlets of Bletchley as well as the "endship" of Fenny Stratford.

At the beginning of 1731, is the note:

Mem^{dum}. That after y^e Consecration of a Chapell at Fenny-Stratford (w^{ch} was on May 27), there was provided a separate Register Book for that endship, in w^{ch} are entered all y^e are Baptised Married & Buried There since that time.

This explains the reduced number annually of entries in this register.

June 6th Day. Thare Was A Great flood at Water Eaton River that was so Big that the Like Hath not Bin seen by all Mens knolidge not this fore Hundren year be fore. it was in 1725.

The river is the Lovatt, and is still able, after heavy rains, to cause considerable floods.

On the inside of the cover, at the end of this book, is written:

I Browne Willis, Patron of the church of Blechley doe make it my Solemn Request that there shall be constantly preacht in the church of Blechley A Sermon on every eighth day of September being the Anniversary of the dedication of the said church exhortatory to the Parishioners in what manner to celebrate the Wake or Feast: And as this Laudable Custom has been observed by Dr. Wells & Mr. Archdeacon Dr. Benson presented by me, So I trust that their successors will by themselves or curates have regard to this my Sole Request which I most earnestly require the Performance of In Remembrance of my many Benefactions to the church and Parish of Blechley. Browne Willis.

In this book are 1,819 entries of baptism (not including 17 stillborns), 924 boys and 895 girls; 1,994 burial entries, of which 972 were under the head of men and 1,022 of women; including at least 148 males and 106 females less than a year old. There were 325 marriages. Of the deaths, at least 25 were those of women who died in childbirth. Among the baptisms, 34 cases of twins are entered; nine cases were boys; in 14 cases both were girls; and in 11 cases, boy and girl. In 11 cases both the children died; altogether 28 of these twin children died within the year, usually shortly after birth, viz., 15 boys and 13 girls.

Book IV., is headed:

The Register of the Parish of Blechley in the County of Bucks and Diocese of Lincoln, March ye 26, 1744. Eliot Willis, Rector.

In 1745, a visit of the Diocesan is recorded :

Memorandum. A Confirmation was held May the third 1745 by the Right Rev^d. Father in God, John L^d Bishop of Lincoln in the Parish Church of Blechley.

In 1752, is entered the death of Martin Benson, bishop of Gloucester ; and rector of Blechley at the time the chapel was built at Penny Stratford (see page 506).

1767. Apr. 22. Mary the illegitimate dau^r of Susan Virgin (!) an infant buried.

There are many lengthy and eulogistic entries of the Willis family in this book. It also contains 645 entries of baptism, 330 boys and 315 girls. There are only 35 weddings, as after 1754 (date of Hardwicke's Act) they are entered in a separate book. There are 721 burial entries, 321 under the head of men, and 400 under the head of women ; of these 71 males and 84 females were infants under one year ; and at least nine of the burials were those of women who died in childbirth. Five cases of twins are recorded, four were boy and girl ; and one, both girls ; six of the children died. In 1766 is the entry of baptism of the bastard daughter of a widow aged 50.

From 1754 to 1787, the ages of the dead recorded : out of 564 burials, between those dates, 175 were of persons over 60 years old, viz., 82 were from 60 to 70 years ; 68 were from 71 to 80 years ; 24 were from 81 to 90 years ; and one was stated to be 97 years old. That is, 31 per cent. of the deaths were those of old people. 155 of the deaths, at least, were those of infants, and as in many cases the ages of children are not stated, we may, by analogy, consider that 50 per cent. of the deaths were those of persons under five years, leaving about 20 per cent. of the deaths to be those of people between five years and 60 years. That over 30 per cent. should be over 60 years of age is certainly a high proportion ; and this analysis may be looked upon as confirming the popular opinion about the longevity of the Blechley people. For, at any rate, between 1744 to 1787, if a child born in Blechley escaped death under five years, he stood an excellent chance of living to over 60 years.

Book V. On the outside of the front cover is stamped, in gilt letters, "St. Mary. Blecheley." The book begins with an inventory (terrier) on the fly-leaf and title page : "Books, plate, ornaments, etc., belonging to the Church, Land, and Fees due to Rector." The Bible formerly belonging to Charles I., which was bound in crimson velvet, with silver ornaments, and given to the church, by Browne Willis, is mentioned in this inventory. This disappeared many years ago.

In this book are 434 baptismal entries, viz., 227 boys, 207 girls. The burials are 345, viz., 157 male and 188 female. Six cases of twins are noted ; one case both girls ; five cases, boy and girl ; nine of these twin children died. At least 37 of the burials were of children less than one year old ; and one only of the burials is that of a woman who died in childbirth. The entries in this book are not analysed so easily as the other books, owing to scantier detail ; but 77 "infants" are entered as being buried ; and 67 people have ages of over 60 years.

affixed to their names, besides some who are described as aged. There were 29 aged from 60 to 70; 28 from 71 to 80; 10 from 81 to 90.

The register is certainly of more than ordinary interest, and this interest is derived from the fact that the Fenny Stratford Endship was situated on Watling Street, the great highway from London to Chester. In 1725, the people of Fenny, in a *petition, described the "endship" as an ancient Market Town "and great thoroughfare situate on the principal road of England; that many strangers are obliged to lodge at our Inns, which are the chief support of our town;" consequently there are many entries in Bletchley register concerning strangers. From 1577 to 1735, when Fenny had a register of its own, about 160 entries of burial are specifically indicated as those of strangers, and probably many more entries are those of strangers, but not noted as such. Very many were unknown, viz.:

ffebruari. i. 1594. A Stranger that died at Stratf. was Bur.

1596. March 4. A poore woman was Buried.

1624. Jan. 21. A cripple beinge a stranger bur.

1638. November 24. A traveler dyeinge at the Cunstables howse at Eaton bur.

Occasionally a stranger of some importance was buried, as:

1602. March 31. One Mr. Sharpe a stranger that dyed at Mr. Raynoldes his house, a "pursiphant," was buried.

1657. July 30. John Sanes gentleman a stranger buried.

1724. May 1. Mr. John Cock a Pasingor that died at Stratford at the sine of the Bull was buried.

The mention of Inns and "carryers" points to the nature of the place and the chief means of subsistence, etc.:

1599. Sept. 5. Thos. Lovet a carier and stranger died at ffancis Kinns.

Most probably Kinns was an Innkeeper, as his house is mentioned more than once.

1619. March 20. A straunger that dyed at the Bull in ffennystr. bur.

The Bull is first mentioned in 1612, and frequently later.

1628. Aprill 30th. Robert Walton a carryer that dyed at the Anngell in ffennystr. bur.

The Angel is first mentioned in 1620, and occasionally later on. The George is first referred to in 1652, and the Saracen's Head in 1661.

Nathanell Ashton, or Ashen, must have kept an Inn about 1700, as his house is often mentioned, or perhaps he was a constable. In 1700, he is called "husbandman." From 1700 to 1725, Matthew Swanell, Rogers, and John Gosley are sometimes referred to as Innholders.

Cole records that once there were several large Inns at Fenny, but in 1720 only four remained, viz.;

The Red Lyon, the ancient Post House. The Bull. The Swan; this was an Inn,

* The petition was for funds to build St. Martin's church, and appeared in the *Post Boy* of 1 January 1725.

as appears by old deeds, in 1472. The Saracen's Head; this was the principal Inn; anciently it stood at the corner opposite Simpson Lane. Of the others, The Bell mostly pulled down. The Angel now belongs to the Town Charity; it stood against the Bell. The George, pulled down in 1681, by Mr. Jauncey, because it hindered the custom of his house, the Red Lyon. The Antelope, now turned into tenements.

1578. Oct. 26. Isabell the daughter of an harlot was Baptized.

The above entry, with others resembling it, indicates the "social fester" that exists in most places of public resort. Denby Hall, first mentioned in 1715, is Denbigh Hall, situated on Watling Street, about the place where the London & North-Western railway now crosses the road, and is in the parish of Bletchley. Cole refers to it:

In 1641 the constables houses were Denbigh and Willow Hall; two cottages on the Watling Street Road. Willow Hall was pulled down in 1706. Dr. B. Willis endeavoured to pull down Denbigh Hall, a reputed bawdy house, just by his grounds, in the Bottom at the Foot of Rickley Wood Hill and exactly where the brook from Woughton makes a sort of river in floody weather; but he was cast at his Trial about it.

In 1654, one Bunce, or Bunch committed a murder in Rickley wood. He was hanged for it on the opposite side of the great road at the upper end of the wood. The stump of the gibbet was taken up in 1699, and a house built on the place, and elm trees planted. There is no reference to this crime in the register, but a similar affair must have occurred at the same place before. Probably the wood was a convenient locality for homicide, for the register of the adjoining parish of Simpson records a double murder here in 1741. In Bletchley book is the entry:

1617. Sept. 8. A stranger slayne c found in wryckley wood. buried.

Not only were strangers buried, but many children of strangers, travellers, vagrants, wanderers, etc., were baptised, viz.:

1582. June 17. This day Elizabeth a straungers child was baptized.

1591. Januari 9. Oliver the sonn of a vagarant was Bapt. whose mother said an oliver piggott was the father thereof.

1605. June 12. was buryed a man child of one webb a vagrant borne at Eaton and dyed before it could be bap.

1617. Aug. 10. Elizabeth the daughter of one Thomas a wanderinge hatt dresser born at Eaton bap.

1659. March 8. The child of a travilling woman born at the bull in fenistratford buried.

Birth, while travelling, does not seem to have been conducive to longevity either for mother or child, if we may judge from the recorded cases in Bletchley register, the infants often died, and the mothers also quite frequently:

1723. May 4th. A Poore woman that Lay in at Danill Spenlows of Stratford, shoemaker, not knowing her name, was Buried.

The following entries illustrate the administration of the poor-law and the hardships which sometimes attended the inexorable passing on of the pauper to his place of settlement:

1598. November 28. Willm Bowley a young childe and y^e childe of a Travalinge and wandering woman wth y^e mother brought dead in her armes to towne coming from Shenley and sent by y^e constables boy by her passport, y^t was a Bastard, was Buried.
1753. Dec. 31. Robert Jackson brought out of Bedfordshire by a Pass to Eaton, was put into a Barn, where he died the Day following, was Buried.

There are several burials of people dying at the constable's house, most likely paupers with passes.

In 1517, a soldier was buried named Willm condall who was born in herfsh; and in 1612, a poor souldyer that dyed at ffennystra. buried. In 1643, two soldiers were buried on July 21, and one the next day, all unnamed; as plenty of skirmishing took place in the county during the Great Rebellion, these entries may refer to some fight, but the manner of death not being entered, the soldiers are quite as likely to have succumbed to the hardships of campaigning or incidental disease. The other entries of soldiers' burials are doubtless those of men who died during the march of their regiments along the road from one station to another. In other parish registers, along Watling Street, entries relating to soldiers and troops are quite common.

It is rare in any ancient register to find the cause of death entered against a burial, and Bletchley is no exception to this general omission. The cause of death is sometimes apparent. We suppose an infant buried two or three days after birth to have died of inanition, and we also know that a woman buried shortly after the baptism of her infant, or perhaps before, must have died in childbirth; and deaths by violence, viz., drowning, murder, accident, etc., are often entered; but deaths as the result of disease are rarely indicated. Sometimes the known prevalence of an epidemic allows us to surmise the cause of an unusually large mortality; the cause of death most frequently alluded to is small-pox.

The annual burials at Bletchley, up to 1732, numbered about 20, usually less; but the following years show an extra mortality: 1593, 34 burials; 1625, 35 burials; 1643, 39 burials; 1657, 74 burials; 1658, 71 burials; 1665, 126 burials; 1685, 42 burials; 1714, 39 burials; 1727, 53 burials; 1728, 39 burials; and 1729, 50 burials.

Up to and including 1665, the extra mortality was caused by the plague, as that disease prevailed in other parts of England at about the dates quoted, and travellers were very likely to bring it to Fenny Stratford.

From 1685, onwards, all extra mortality was caused by small-pox, but this disease has always been more or less a scourge in England, but the ravages of the plague rather overshadowed it; in fact, very possibly both diseases may have been confounded, but after 1665, the plague disappeared from England, and small-pox reigned indisputably supreme as the deadliest foe to life in these islands. The mortality of 1727-8-9 was caused by it, and during these years other parts of the kingdom suffered, and the fact is occasionally commented on in other parish registers. Cole records "The plague in 1665 helped to abolish the market, there died in Bletchley parish part (of Fenny) about 106; and

in Simpson part 23."

It is said that lace-making was introduced into Bucks by Flemish refugees during the 15th century; the first mention of it in Bletchley register is in :

1638. June 17. Tho: the son of Willm Stopp lacebuyer c of Kath. his wife of ffennystr. bapt.

This shows the industry to be settled and flourishing, as entries of lacebuyers are tolerably frequent. Among the trades, etc., mentioned during the 17th century, are carrier, husbandman, miller, tailor, baker, fuller, butcher, labourer, weaver, malster, shepherd, smith, mercer, shoemaker, innholder, tapster, mason, and carpenter. After 1700, hostler, barber, victualler, fidler, yeoman, booke-binder, lace-maker, glover, wheelwright, glacier, grocer, button-maker, cooper, collar-maker, etc.

The register books treated of contain 5,149 entries of baptism, viz., 2,640 boys, and 2,509 girls; 4,657 entries of burial, viz., 2,268 men, and 2,389 women; also 38 entries of burial of stillborn children not included in the above numbers; and 798 marriage entries up to 1755.

The proportion of male to female live births works out at 105·2 to 100, somewhat higher than the modern rate, which is said to be (for England) 103·5 boys to 100 girls. The number of twins is 73, an average of one case of twins in about 70 births, which is a much higher average than is now said to prevail—that is one in 80 to 90 births.

Up to 1631, 38 stillborn children are recorded, an average of 3 per cent. on the births. Mr. Marcus Rubin, at the recent Brit. Associat. meeting, stated that 8 per cent. of births were stillborn 100 years ago. This seems too high to be true, or perhaps all the still births were not registered in Bletchley; but the number (38 in about 50 years) seems to show that they were regularly recorded. Mr. Rubin also suggested multiplying the average number of annual births by 30 to arrive at the total population of a district in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, when accurate records are not forthcoming. Adopting this method, the population of Bletchley parish was, in 1600, about 600; in 1627, about 720; in 1650, about 900; and in 1604, the year before the plague, about 900. After the plague the population sank somewhat, and in 1680, or near to that period, was about 780; and in 1700, was about 700; and in 1712, also about 700.

Cole writes :

In 1712, there were 200 families in this parish, viz., Bletchley, 71; Fenny Strat., 73; Water Eaton, 46; besides 2 houses in Bletchley Leas, and 5 houses in the Manor Grounds, . . . 900 souls; of which one was a papist, one family and 3 single persons Quakers; 3 families and 3 single persons Anabaptists.

The estimates of population before 1680 are probably not far from the fact; and the great discrepancy between Cole's record and the estimates for 1700 and 1712, made on the register, can be satisfactorily explained by the laxity shown at the Fenny end of the parish, as set forth in the public statement to the bishop at the consecration of Fenny

chapel some years later.

Of the 4,657 entries of burial, at least 57 are of women who died in childbirth; as in Book V. the entries are not so easily analysed, they are excluded from the following entries made for the years from 1577 to 1787; 4,715 recorded baptisms gives us at least 57 maternal deaths from childbirth, an average of one maternal death to about 83 births. The real rate was probably 1·5 to 2 per cent. This contrasts strikingly with the present average maternal mortality in childbirth, viz., about one in 250.

About 800 of the burials are those of infants under one year, but a close examination of a few years of the register, which was particularly well kept, reveals an infant mortality, under one year, of about 24 per cent.

A few leaves of the churchwardens' accounts during the 17th century are still extant, for the few years before 1665 an annual amount of about £65 was levied and spent, but in 1665, the plague year, only £24 was raised and expended. Among the items are: Paid for a lemon, 3d.; paid for tobacco for ye visited, 1s. 4d. (several items); also a few entries "making grave and shroud." In 1666, the expenditure resumed its former level, and a recrudescence of judicial activity with accompanying legal punishments seem to be indicated by the entry "Pd Goodman Banbury and Richard Crane for ye Cooocking stoole and whipping post, £1:13:10."

In Cole's MSS. 5,801 (Brit. Mus.) there are copious extracts from the Bletchley parish register, and those family names existing in Cole's time, circa 1740, are marked thus *; this mark in the following list indicates the same names. All those family names existing now (1901) are marked †; and the date against the name gives the earliest year in which it appears in the register:

Adams, 1600	Bradbury, 1750	Collier, 1577	Duck, 1653
*Allin, 1577	Bradford, 1670	Collins, 1605	†Durrant, 1710
Ashbie, 1577	Brandon, 1670	Collet(t), 1600	†East, 1590
Atkins, 1665	Bright, 1577	†*Cook(e), 1580	Eason, 1590
Atturburi, 1577	Brinklow, 1708	Cooper, 1590	Eaton, 1600
Backhouse, or	Browton, 1750	Cowly, 1665	†Edwards, 1710
Baccus, 1640	Buckmaster, 1665	†Cox, 1750	†Emberton, 1630
†Baldwin, 1750	Bull, 1750	†Crane, 1590	†*Emerton, 1590
Banberye, 1577	Bunyan, 1640	Crisp, 1785	Etheridge, 1710
Barnart, or Bar-	Burgis, 1688	Crosby, 1700	Evans, 1600
net, 1692	Burton, 1720	Curnocke, 1650	Falconer or Fork-
†Barnwell, 1600	Butcher, 1750	†Curtis, 1750	ner, 1750
†Bate(s), 1710	Capron, 1685	Cutbeard, 1665	†Farmbrough, 1750
†Bayley, 1577	Cartwright, 1750	†*Daniel(l), 1590	Far(r), 1720
†Bazeley, 1577	Chandler, 1605	Davyes, 1590	Fary, 1670
†Bells, 1600	Chapman, 1577	Deacon, 1630	Fellow, 1630
†Bennet, 1577	†Chappell, 1600	Dearman, 1590	ffellow, 1590
Billington, 1577	Chennels, 1744	Dench, 1650	Fenner, 1630
Bland, 1630	*Cherri, 1600	Dennes, 1580	†Finnal(l), 1630
Blinkinsopp, 1600	Chievall, 1580	Dewbery, 1605	†Fisher, 1600
Bolton, 1750	Child, 1605	†Dickens, 1630	Floyd, 1670
Bonham, 1750	*Co(a)le, 1665	†Dimock, 1600	Foscutt, 1670
†Bowler, 1677	Coleman, 1577	Dodgely, 1670	†Foulks, 1710
Bowman, 1730	Collman, 1577	Downing(e), 1605	†Fountain, 1708

Foster, 1630	Jauncey, 1666	Munday, 1730	Shen, 1704
Fox, 1670	Jeffs, 1666	†Nash, 1790	Shipley, 1577
†Franklin, 1670	Jeroms, 1666	Nevill, 1790	†Sipthorp, 1790
French, 1750	†Jeves, 1634	Newman, 1670	Sireat, 1749
Frost, 1750	Jinkins(on), 1670	*Norman, 1577	Smallbones, 1630
*Fuller, 1670	Johnstone, 1670	Norris, 1670	*Spenloe, 1577
†Gardner, 1620	†Jones, 1720	†Oliver, 1630	Starton, 1670
†Garner, 1680	†*Keens, 1720	Osborn, 1760	†Stevens, 1630
Gibbs, 1680	Kenney, 1750	†Page, 1700	*Stopp, 1630
*Glenister, 1580	Ket(t)le, 1577	Parkins, 1610	Stratford, 1577
Goldby, 1740	†Kilby, 1627	†*Parratt, 1600	Stratton, 1720
*Goodman, 1577	†King(e), 1577	Parsons, 1730	Surgatt, 1577
Gosse, 1740	†Kirby, 1800	†Payne, 1577	†Swanill, 1693
†*Grace, 1577	*Kynns, 1577	Percival, 1680	Tansley, 1669
†Green(e), 1580	*Lane, 1590	†Perry, 1735	†Tarbox, 1735
Greenwood, 1577	Law, 1748	†Phillips, 1577	Tatham, 1735
†Gurney, 1760	Leaberry, 1783	†Pollard, 1730	†Taylor, 1669
Gutteridge, 1680	Leeke, 1610	†Pool(e), 1680	Tim(e)s, 1700
Hakins, 1680	Linford, 1680	†Pope, 1577	†Tompkins, 1690
Hames, 1727	†Linnel, 1748	†*Pursill, 1577	Toogood, 1577
†Hammon(d), 1720	Loveley, 1577	Quarrye, 1630	Townes, 1577
Harper, 1720	†Lovell, 1577	Rallins, 1630	Travell, 1720
†Harris, 1577	†Major, 1760	Rand, 1618	*Turpin, 1681
Hart(e), 1600	†Makam, 1577	†Read, 1713	Turvey, 1749
Hawkins, 1600	Malington, 1700	†Reynolds, 1577	Uff, 1577
Healey, 1770	Mariott, 1670	†Richardson, 1577	*Underwood, 1600
*Hebbs, 1630	Marshall, 1715	Ridgeway, 1766	†Wal(l)dock(e), 1577
Heiles, 1680	Martyn, 1640	Robards, 1720	†Warner, 1720
†Henley, 1577	†Matthews, 1715	†Robinson, 1577	Watkins, 1750
Hickford, 1577	†*Mead(e), 1670	*Rogers, 1577	Watt, 1577
Hinkley, 1680	Meadows, 1577	Rolt, 1750	†Webb, 1660
Hinson, 1750	Meakins, 1715	Rose, 1670	†Wells, 1600
†Hold(h)am, 1727	†Meecham, 1715	†Ruffe, 1600	Whippam, 1577
Holinworth, 1630	Melton, 1715	Sansome, 1630	Wilkinson, 1720
Honnor, 1680	Milener, 1577	Scott, 1788	†Willett, 1600
†Hurst(e), 1630	†Missendon, 1782	†*Sear, 1577	Wilson, 1600
Innes, 1634	Moore(s), 1670	†Seuster, 1704	Witsey, 1600
Inwards, 1720	†Morby(e), 1644	†Sharp, 1693	†Wood, 1750
Jackman, 1577	Mosman, 1670	Shaw, 1630	Woodstock, 1600
†James, 1732	Mulberie, 1577	Sheffield, 1680	

Browne Willis, the Antiquary, and Lord of the Manor of Bletchley.

Browne Willis was born 14 September 1682, at St Mary Blandford, in Dorsetshire, being eldest son of Thomas Willis, of Bletchley, by Alice his wife, daughter of Robert Browne, of Frampton, in Dorset. He was educated, during three or four years, first under Abraham Freestone, school master at Beachampton, in this county, and afterwards at Westminster School; was admitted at the age of 17, Gentleman Commoner of Christ Church, Oxon, under Dr. Edward Wells, the famous geographer.

It has, however, been asserted by Mr. Cole, that Willis only knew Dr. Wells by his writings, and that Mr. Adams was his tutor. He was, after his removal from Oxford, under tuition of William Wootton, B.D., rector of Middleton Keynes.

In 1702, Willis was a great benefactor to Fenny Stratford, and revived the market at that town. He also, in 1704 and 1707, contributed

handsomely towards the repairing and beautifying (at an expense of £800) the parish church of Bletchley, mother to the church of Fenny Stratford. In 1705, he was elected M.P. for Buckingham, in place of Sir Richard Temple, bart. In 1707, he married Catherine, daughter of Daniel Eliot, of Port Eliot, in Cornwall, with whom he had a fortune of £8,000. She died, 2 October 1724, aet. 34 and was buried at Bletchley.

In 1717-18 Browne Willis became an active member of the Society of Antiquaries. On the 23 August 1720, he was made M.A. of the University of Oxford, by diploma; and in 1749, D.C.L.

At his solicitation, a subscription was raised, in 1724, for building the Chapel of St. Martins at Fenny Stratford, which was begun soon afterwards, and consecrated 27 May 1730, by Dr. Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln. In May 1746, a fire at Stony Stratford destroyed St. Mary Magdalene's church, and more than fifty houses. Mr. Willis, besides collecting considerable sums amongst his friends, for the benefit of the sufferers, repaired, at his own expense, the tower of the church, and afterwards gave a lottery-ticket towards the rebuilding of it; which ticket produced a prize.

In 1741, he sold to the University of Oxford his fine cabinet of English coins, then regarded as one of the most complete in England—the University paying 150 guineas as a compensation for them. There were 167 in number; and this payment was at the rate of 4 guineas per ounce. He was accustomed to visit this cabinet, after it was deposited in the museum, annually, on the 19 October, being St. Frideswide's Day, and as regularly made some addition to it.

In 1752 Browne Willis gave £200 towards building the tower of Buckingham church, and was, upon every proper occasion, a benefactor to the town.

In 1756, he repaired Bow Brickhill church, which had fallen to decay, and had been disused almost 150 years. He erected a handsome monument in Christ Church, Oxford, in memory of Dr. Iles, canon of Christ Church, to whom his grand-father was an exhibitor.

In 1759, he incited the Society of the University College to place in Beachampton church, a monument to their benefactor, Sir Simon Benet, bart., which until that time, through the long period of 100 years, had remained neglected.

He built Water Hall, in this Parish, at the expense of more than £5,000, which was subsequently purchased by the earl Spencer's steward, who pulled it entirely down.

The wife of Browne Willis was very nobly descended, viz., from Walter Giffard, earl of Buckingham, who was lord of this manor in the reign of the Conqueror. She was a lady of great prudence and virtue and evinced some literary talents; having written, with the assistance of a worthy clergyman in the neighbourhood, that pious and popular work called "The Whole Duty of Man" which Browne Willis made the subject of continual jest.

Browne Willis died, 5 February 1760, at Whaddon Hall. Of his personal appearance, so often described and ridiculed, Mr. Cole has

given, in his way some amusing accounts. In one of them, he says :

When I knew him first, about 35 years ago he had more the appearance of a mumping beggar than of a gentleman ; and the most like resemblance of his figure that I can recollect among old prints, is that of old Hobson, the Cambridge Carrier. He then, as always, was dressed in an old slouched hat, more brown than black, a weather beaten large wig, three or four old fashion coats, all tied round by a leathern belt, and over all an old blue cloak, lined with black fustian which he told me he had new when he was elected member for the town of Buckingham, about 1707. I have still by me, as relics, this cloak and belt, which I purchased of his servant. He wrote the worst hand of any man in England, such as he could with great difficulty read himself, and what no one except his old correspondents could decypher. His boots which he almost always appeared in, were not the least singular parts of his dress ; I suppose it will not be falsity to say they were 40 years old, patched and vamped up at various times : they are all in wrinkles, and do not come up above half way of his legs. The chariot of Mr. Willis was so singular, that from it he was himself called *The Old Chariot*. It was his wedding chariot, and had his arms on brass plates, about it, not unlike a coffin, and painted black. He was as remarkable probably for his love to the walls and structures of Churches, as for his variance with the clergy in his neighbourhood. He was not well pleased with any one who, in talking of, or with him, did not call him Squire. I wrote these notes when I was of humour with him for some of his tricks. God rest his soul, and forgive us all. Amen.

The above carries the stamp of Cole, as a proof of its authenticity.

He is said to have offered the living of Bletchley to Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, if he would conform and take the oath ; but on his refusal, he gave it to Cole. The annexed communication, on the same subject, is from the correspondence of Miss Catherine Talbot to the Hon. Miss Campbell :

You know Browne Willis, or, at least it is not my fault, that you do not, for when at any time some of his oddities have particularly struck my fancy, I have written you whole volumes about him. However, that you may not be forced to recollect how I have formerly tired you, I will repeat, that with one of the honestest hearts in the world he has one of the oddest heads that ever dropped from the moon. Extremely well versed in coins, he knows hardly anything of mankind ; and you may judge what kind of education such a one is likely to give to four wild girls, who have had no female directress to polish their behaviour, or any other habitation than a great rambling mansion house in a country village. As, by his little knowledge of the world, he has ruined a fine estate, that was when he first had it £2,000 per annum, his present circumstances oblige him to an odd headed kind of frugality, that shews itself in the slovenliness of his dress, and makes him think London much too extravagant an abode for his daughters, at the same time that his zeal for antiquities makes him think an old copper farthing very cheaply bought with a guinea, and any journey properly undertaken that will bring him to some old cathedral on the Saint's Day to which it was dedicated. As, if you confine the natural growth of a tree, it may shoot out in the wrong place ; in spite of his expensiveness, he appears saving in almost every article of life that people would expect him otherwise in ; and in spite of his frugality, his fortune I believe grows worse and worse every day. I have told you before, that he is the dirtiest creature in the world, so much so that it is quite disagreeable to sit near him at the table : he makes one suit of clothes serve him at least two years, and as to his great coat, it has been transmitted down I believe from generation to generation ever since Noah. On Sunday he was quite a beau. The Bishop of Gloucester is his idol, and if Mr. Willis were Pope, St. Martin (as he calls him) would not wait a minute for canonization. To honour last Sunday as it deserved, after having run about all the morning to all the St. George's Churches, whose difference of hours permitted him, he came to dine with us in a tie wig, that exceeds indeeds all description. It is a wig (the very colour of it is inexpressible) that he has had, he says, these nine years ; and of late it has lain by at his barber's,

never to be put on but once a year, in honour of the Bishop of Gloucester's birthday.

Indeed in this birthday tie wig, he looked so like the father in the farce Mrs. Secker was so diverted with, that I wished a thousand times for the invention of Scapin. and I would have made no scruple of assuming the character for our diversion.

It has been observed of Browne Willis, that, if Dugdale were a Dædalus rather than a Prometheus ; if it were owing to the state of knowledge and taste of his day, that he could not vivify his writings by picturesque, biographical, archæological, and architectural assistances, and that they accordingly partook of the heavy character of law books and peerages ; Willis added to this dullness, however laudable his industry, by substituting, for the well executed sepulchral effigies of Dugdale's manor, absolute skeleton's ; for he published the indexes, and left out the books.

The taste of his day was little better than that of Dugdale's : and though an excellent antiquary, his enthusiasm was awakened chiefly by clock and bells. If men had the good fortune to have lived a few centuries before him, and loved church and king, he was satisfied that they had neither error nor vice ; " And so he played his part."

NEWTON LONGVILLE.

NEWTON LONGVILLE is a parish of 1735 acres in extent with a village of about 415 inhabitants. The village is situated about 2 miles south-west from Bletchley, and 10 from Newport Pagnell. It is in the petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, union and county court district of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Bletchley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford. It is bounded on the north-west by Bletchley, on the north-east by Water Eaton, on the south by Drayton Parslow, and on the south-west by Mursley.

The Baptists and the Primitive Methodists have places of worship here, each having 200 sittings.

Among the fossil remains, are abundance of *Gryphæa incurvata*, and some few ammonites in gravel.

The roads, before the improvements made since the inclosure of the parish, in 1840, were so deep and miry, as to have been, not only difficult, but in many parts absolutely impassable for carriages. In Willis's statistical account in 1740, he states, that the village then contained about 80 families; that the agricultural contents were computed at 57 yard-lands, of which thirteen belonged to the parsonage. That there were, in 1744, seven ale houses here, and the assessment to the land tax was £116/5/9; although, in 1711; it had been assessed only at £108/10/-.

In September 1818, a calamitous and accidental fire broke out, which consumed and destroyed several cottages; but a very liberal subscription was raised for the relief of the distressed, to the amount of £362/15/3½. Sir Andrew Corbett, Edward Harmer, of Stock Grove; the Rev. Robert Wetherell, and Gilbert Flesher, formed a committee for the relief of the sufferers; and Mr. Flesher having given a supply of timber to erect a gallery in the church for singers, which was unfortunately consumed in the fire, generously contributed a second supply, to be placed at the distribution of the committee for the like purpose.

Mr. Flesher also, at the solicitation of the inhabitants, who had been long celebrated for the harmonious ringing of their "five merry bells here," consented to bear the expense of recasting the old bells into six; which was accordingly effected by Taylor, bell-founder, Oxford, for about £80; the new bell being gratefully inscribed with the name of the doner, and Mr. Flesher's high spirit of generosity placed in record, by a liberal imitation of that public spirit which had formerly actuated his predecessor, Browne Willis, at Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

Manorial History of Newton Longville.

Newton Longville is described in the Domesday Survey as the land

of Walter Giffard ; but there is some error either in the original entry or more probably in the printed copy, its insertion being in Moselai, instead of Sigelai Hundred, in which latter Hundred it is graphically situated.

Walter Giffard held it in his own hands, and was taxed at ten hides.

There were twenty carucates of land. In the demesne four hides and four carucates ; and twenty villeins with eight bordars had eight carucates. There were eleven servants, and six carucates of pasture. It was altogether valued at £12. When he first held it £10; and the same in Edward's days. This manor had been holden by Edward, cilt, in the Saxon time.

Walter Giffard, who, in Neustria Pici, is styled earl of Buckingham, the founder of a Benedictine priory at Longville, afterwards dedicated to St. Faith, to which he gave his manor of Newington, in Bucks, and made it a cell to the same priory, thence called Newington Longville, is said to have died in 1102 ; and in another place, is called second earl of Longueville, and mentioned as the husband of Agnes, and father of Gantier (Walter ?) Giffard, third of the name.

From this discrepancy of dates, may probably have happened, the foundation of the cell to that Abbey being referred to an earlier period than really belongs to it. The fact being, that the first Walter Giffard, follower of the Conqueror, and the undoubted founder of the priory at Longueville, near Dieppe, died in 1104 ; that Agnes his wife, who was likewise buried with him in Normandy, was the sister of the bishop of Eureux, and mother of Walter Giffard, the second earl of Buckingham, co-founder of Notley abbey, who, with Ermengard the countess his wife, by a charter, specially ratified and confirmed to the monks of Longueville, all the lands, advowsons of churches, and other gifts, which their father, Walter, the first earl, and their mother, the said Agnes, had bestowed upon that religious house, to which they likewise added many other churches and advowsons of their own free gift, and in perpetual alms, for the health of the souls of the said Walter and Agnes, and of Walter and Ermengard including the whole of the parish of Horwood, excepting the fee of Durand, cum pert, the church of Whaddon with all its appurtenances, and also the tithes of the wood and every thing thereunto belonging ; the whole of Newington, excepting the fee of Odo, and all the customs and issues belonging to the wood of Whaddon, viz., all necessary provisions towards the sustentation, of the monks (at Snelshall), their buildings, fences, fuel, &c., as to his own foresters, without molestation and pasture in his woods, rendering annually for the same one load of oats as had been customary in his mother's time. And at Weston Underwood whatever his father had holden there, and the church, cum pert., and the tithes of the demesne ; and the like at Wickenham, and whatever his father had holden there, excepting the fee of William and Ralph de Leon and Botereux ; also the church of St. Mary of Wickenham, cum pert., and the tenths of the lordships and St. Faith's church, with all its appurtenances ; and the land of Retollehage (Radnage ?). Also the land of Reppes. Also the churches of Holy Trinity and St. John.

And in Akeley, and many other places therein enumerated; and also all the tenths of his lordships and demesnes in Buckingham, Bourton, Maids Morton, Lamport, Lillingstone, Leckhampstead, Beachampton, Singleborough, Bradwell, Loughton, Moulsoe, Betchley, Bow Brickhill, Biddlesden, Mursley, Swanbourne, Litcote, Chilton, Wootton, Dorton, Easington, Addingrave, Policot, Edgcot, Dumaune, Fulkesworth, Ramerton, Chicksand, the hospital for the poor at Longville, which had been given to the monks there; the church of Stokeby, with all its appurtenances and tenths of that lordship; the church of Stratton, in Norfolk, cum pert.; and all the tenths of the lordship of Caversham, in Oxfordshire.

In 1316, a fine was passed of messuages, lands, and meadow in Newton Longville, between Hugh de Stretle and Agnes his wife, querents, and Robert Fraunceys, deforciant, to the use of Robert Fraunceys; who granted the same to Hugh and Agnes, for their lives, with remainder to Robert, son of Hugh and Agnes, remainder to the heirs of his body.

Hugh Despenser, banneret, son of Hugh Despenser, junr., departed this life 8 February 1349, possessed of the advowson of the priory of Newton Longueville; with divers lands in Oxfordshire, &c.

In 1372, Ralph, earl of Stafford, and Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Hugh Audley, earl of Gloucester, died possessed, inter alia of the advowson of Newton Longueville.

In 1399, Gilbert Talbot, chivalier, died possessed of the manor of Newton Longueville, and the rectory, and a portion of the tithes there at the rent of £4, late part of the possessions of Newton priory, to which, no doubt, he was the lessee. And in 1414, Richard de Beauchamp, lord Abergavenny, died possessed of the advowson of Newton Longville priory.

Henry Rochford, in 1401, had order from Henry iv., to pay fifty marks out of the lordship of Newton Longville, in Bucks, which he farmed of the king, to sir Thomas Eppingham.

The dissolution of foreign priories having taken place, Henry vi., by letters patent, dated 18 August 1444, gave to New College, Oxford, the manor of Newton Longville, and the chief part of the lands and possessions of the late dissolved priory. The priory estate here at the dissolution being valued at £44/13/9 per annum clear.

The Manor House, Newton Longville,

Is, in fact, only a plain substantial building, near the north side of the churchyard; and built, probably, on part of the foundation of the ancient priory. It was undoubtedly erected after the estate had come into the possession of New College; the arms of that society being cut in stone over the front door; and together with the manor farm, of about 350 acres, of which, only fifteen were in the ancient enclosure, has been, from time to time, occupied by a lessee of the college. In 1826, there was a lease for twenty years, in the accustomed manner, renewable every seven years, from Michaelmas.

St. Faith's Church, Newton Longville.

The church of St. Faith stands in the middle of a grave yard which is situated on a slight eminence to the west of the road running through the village.

The church consists of a chancel, north chapel, clerestoried nave with aisles, north and south porches, and a western tower containing six bells inscribed as follows :

First : RECAST BY THE MUNIFICENCE OF GILBERT FLESHER ESQR., WHO ADDS HONOUR TO THE HONOUR OF HIS ANCESTORS.

OF AD 1066. THE NOBLEST MOTIVE IS THE PUBLIC GOOD.

Second : W : & J : TAYLOR OXFORD FEC T 1824.

Third : W : & J : T : OXFORD FOUNDERS 1824.

Fourth : 18.... Last two figures illegible.

Fifth : JOHN BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT 1800.

Sixth : R : TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS OXFORD MDCCCXXVI.

Chancel : The east window is of four lights, cinquefoiled in the heads and under a four-centred arch. In the south wall is a doorway under a square label with carved spandrels ; two three-light windows ; two decorated niches, one for credence and the larger of the two for a piscina. In the north wall is an aumbry which still retains its old wooden lining and folding doors. There are also oak choir seats, sedilia, credence table, and altar, all modern. The arch between the chancel and chapel is 14th century. The chancel arch is obtuse, recessed once with a hollow moulding in which are dog-tooth, star, and other ornaments. Responds, semi-round with square abacus, one capital carved with snaky monsters. On the east side of the responds are the sculptured corbels which once supported the rood loft.

North chapel : One three-light perp. window ; two three-light windows under lower arches. Several quaintly carved corbels in the walls. The chapel contains a small organ and a recently placed "brass" to William Grocyn, rector 1479-1504, first teacher of Greek at Oxford,

Nave of two bays, north arcade has nail-head ornaments, central round pillar with square abacus and capital carved with monsters (12th century). South arcade, moulded arches, round pillar with square abacus and capital carved with conventional foliage. Clerestory windows, all foliated (perp.), four on each side.

In the north aisle, is the stairway in the pier of the chancel arch to the rood-loft. Piscina in a trefoiled niche, an aumbry, north door with image bracket close by ; plain three-light west window. In the south aisle, piscina and aumbry, window with perp. tracery. North and south porches are of stone with seats.

West tower is battlemented without pinnacles, diagonal buttresses with four set-offs. Tower arch plain, west window dec., west doorway perp. The church throughout has a wood ceiling supported on corbels ; it is also seated with modern benches for about 250 people.

Externally the nave walls are battlemented with gable crosses on chancel, nave, and porches. Outside the east wall of the north chapel is a female figure on a bracket, supposed to represent the patron saint. Over the east window of chancel is a small figure, skeleton, supposed to be Death. This church is in excellent repair and order, and well cared for.

The font, which stands under the easternmost of the two arches, between the nave and the south aisle, is large, and as ancient as the foundation of the church. Its form is that of a cone; without ornament or sculpture, excepting four frets; which, inter-changeably crossing the extremities of each other, form a kind of lozengey net-work over the surface. It is supported by a circular pedestal, rising from a base, which is escaloped by eight semi-octagonal projections. The foot considerably worn by those who have approached the font. Within the bason, which is very capacious, evidently for immersion, and lined with lead, is a modern vase of artificial stone. The cover which is of oak, is an octagonal pyramid, divided into compartments, which, amongst other carvings, have the lion and the unicorn as royal supporters, of the time of James I.

The Register begins in 1560, and has been regularly continued until the present time; some few leaves only appearing to have been damaged or destroyed, as if accidentally. Amongst other entries, are the following:

Bee it known, y^e. Nathaniel Gyles, Parson of Newton Longville, did read y^e 29 of Octob^r. 1620, publicly in the same Church, in y^e midst of Divine Service, y^e 40 articles agreed upon by y^e Archbishops and Bishops of both Provinces, and y^e whole Clergy in the Convocation held at London, in y^e yeer of our Lord 1562, for the avoiding of diversities of opinions, and for the establishing y^e consent touching true religion. In witness whereof, we, whose hands are under-written, doe subscribe, Oct. 29th 1620. John Longford, Sextus Cook, John Hawkins, young^r, Rich. Berrington, Churchwardens.

1584. Alice a poore body buried July 30.

Anno 1645 being the yeare of y^e Visitacon (probably plague) 34 burials between July and October.

1795. Anthony Nourse Sanderson Rect^r of this Parish bur. Jan^y 30. (Anthony Nourse son of Anthony & Eliz. Sanderson bapt. 11 Sept. 1729 at Hammer-smith).

1812. John Pearce brought from Aylesbury where he was executed for Burglary on the Friday before. buried Aug. 2nd

Rectors of Newton Longville.

RALPH DE CROPPREY died in 1278. He was also rector of Stoke Hammond and of Great Horwood; and was succeeded by

NICHOLAS FITZ NICHOLAS, instituted 3 August 1278, procurator from the prior of Longueville.

ROGER LUCAS, or LUCY, occurs rector 1330. He resigned in 1343; and was succeeded by

WILLIAM FITZ NICHOLAS DE HUITTE FENNY STRATFORD, instituted 5 June 1343, on the presentation of the king, by reason of the temporalities of the priory of Newton Longueville being in the king's hands on account of the French War.

STEPHEN GODERICKE, ordained sub-deacon, was presented 23 May 1377, by Bishop Arundell, at Doddington, in the Isle of Ely. He exchanged for Hengrave, in Norwich diocese, with

- JOHN FISHER 27 September 1388, on the presentation or the king ; who exchanged for Brynton rectory, in Norwich diocese, with
- JOHN WISBEACH, 3 September 1398.
- JOHN WILOWE was presented 16 June 1406, by the king. He occurs rector in 1430 ; and was succeeded by
- JOHN STRENSHAM, who died rector in 1455.
- JOHN JEFFRY, M.A., instituted 27 December 1455, on the presentation of New College, to which the estate of the priory had been given ; and by that title and right, all subsequent rectors have since been presented and instituted. At his death,
- WALTER HILL M.A., was instituted 4 February 1473. In 1479, he quitted this living for Hardwick rectory. On his cession, he was succeeded by
- WILLIAM GROCVN, presented 19 April 1479. On his resignation
- RICHARD MAKETT, M.A., was instituted 8 March 1504, and was succeeded by
- JOHN YOUNG, M.A., instituted 23 September 1525. He was a native of this village. He died 28 March 1526, and is supposed to have been buried under a marble slab in the chapel of New College, which he had caused to be laid there some time before his death, with an inscription containing his name, but a blank left for the insertion of the time of his decease, which was not afterwards filled up.
- HENRY COLE, LL.D., warden of New College 1542, who took this benefice on the death of Young, was instituted 14 September 1545. He was one of the divines who disputed publicly at Oxford, with Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer ; and preached the sermon immediately before the burning of Archbishop Cranmer, 21 March 1556. In the first year of Queen Elizabeth, he was again appointed, with others, on the side of the Papists, to dispute publicly, before the Privy Council, with the Protestant divines ; but afterwards, refusing to comply with the Reformation of religion, was fined, imprisoned in the Fleet, and died in confinement in December 1579. He was, on his resignation, succeeded by
- THOMAS WHITE, LL.D., instituted in 1552 ; and on his cession
- MAURICE BULLOCK, M.A., was instituted 1 May 1557. He died 1558.
- SEXTUS QUARTERMAINE was instituted 23 December 1558. His will was dated 8 July 1613, and ordered his burial in the chancel, where he was interred 27 July 1613. He was succeeded by
- WILLIAM TWISSE, B.D., who was instituted 18 September 1613. He exchanged with
- NATHANIEL GILES, M.A., who took possession of it 29 October 1620. About 1628, he removed to Chinnor in Oxfordshire, though he kept this living till his death in 1655.
- HENRY WINNINGTON, M.A., became rector in 1655 ; but not thinking his title sufficient, took out a legal presentation 1 August 1661. He was buried here 1678, in the chancel ; and was succeeded by
- EDWARD YOUNG, LL.B., 2 January 1678. He exchanged for Upham, in Hants, with
- JOSEPH LAVINGTON, B.A., who was instituted 1 December 1680. He was buried here 9 September 1709 ; and succeeded by
- JOHN LYDIATT, M.A., instituted 22 December 1709, having holden this living about a year, he quitted it, on account of ill treatment by his sordid parishoners. He was succeeded by
- RICHARD RIDGE, LL.B., instituted 1 March 1710. He was succeeded, after his death, in the West Indies, by
- JAMES EDMONDS, M.A., instituted 13 June 1727. Cole mentions, that "his parishoners were very perverse," and, "by a troublesome and expensive law-suit, contributed to drive him distracted." At his death in April 1765, was succeeded by
- ANTHONY MOURSE SANDERSON, B.C.L., who was inducted 3 August 1765. Dying, he was succeeded by
- WILLIAM GLASPOLE, M.A., who was inducted 8 July 1795 ; and, at his decease, was succeeded by
- THOMAS LE MESURIER, M.A., inducted 11 July 1799. On his resignation he was succeeded by

ROBERT WETHERELL, LL.B., presented in 1813. He held this rectory until his death, 20 October 1842; and was succeeded by

JAMES ROYDON HUGHES, M.A., who was conducted 24 March 1843.

HENRY CHARLES BLAGDEN, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, was instituted in 1875.

The Rectory, Newton Longville,

Before the modern inclosure, which was effected in 1839 and 1840 under the Voluntary Act of Parliament, consisted of 11 acres 3 roods 25 poles dispersed in the common fields; the whole extent of the parish being about 1,600 acres. The valor, in Ecton, was £20/9/7.

The XVIIth Century Token of Newton Longville.

Until the present it was not known that the small village of Newton Longville was the place of issue of a XVIIth Century Token, and this knowledge was brought about by the subject of this portion of the history of the Hundreds being found at Little Brickhill, about two years ago. This interesting token is of the halfpenny series, and has always been known, but is placed in Boyne's work on the XVIIth Century Tokens (Williamson's edition, 1889), to both Newton in Cambridgeshire, and Newton in Lancashire, without any reason given for such allocation.



The facts which show that it belongs to the Bucks series are proved, not only by the parish registers, where the issuer's name is given, but that the Willison's still reside in the village, and their names are of frequent occurrence throughout the village records.

Jeffery Willison was the grandson of "Robert Willison y^e elder" who was a husbandman; but Jeffery, by his token, made tobacconist the feature of his business by the emblems in the field of the obverse of his token which are two pipes and a roll of tobacco. The inscription upon the obverse and reverse reads:

Ob. * IEFFERY * WILLISON—Two pipes and a roll of tobacco.

R. * IN * NEWTON * 1667—HIS HALFE PENNY I W I *

Jeffery Willison at the time of the issue of his "monie of necesstie" was married, as his wife's initial I. (Joan) appears with his on the reverse. Her death took place either in 1710 or 1713, as the following entries will show:

1639. Robert Willison y^e elder, husbandman buried June 22.

1641. Jeffery Willison sone of Robert (and Margaret) bapt. Octob. 2.

1652. Widow Willison bur. Feb. 11.

1673. Margett Willison. widow. bur. Feb. 1.

1710. Joan Willison bur. Jan. 6.

1713. Joan Willison bur. Jan. 28.

The Gallows, Newton Longville.

It has been considered remarkable that there should have remained here, until of late years, gallows for the execution of criminals. Mr. Cole explains the real cause of this feudal privilege to have been the continuance of the jurisdiction of the abbey after the suppression of the foreign priories. This instrument of capital punishment appears to have been suffered to remain, although Edward I., had removed the cognizance of the higher offences from the courts leet and courts baron, the trial of felonies ceasing to be exercised by the lords of the manors and their stewards, and transferred the privileges to the justices itinerant at the general assizes for counties; and it not being in the power of this parish, as forming only a part of the foreign jurisdiction of the abbey at Longville, to remove such rights, they were still exercised by the foreign stewards, until the dissolution in 1415; when, the estate being given to New College, was allowed to remain in the same manor as Great Brickhill, Addington, and other towns, which had belonged to the powerful family of Molyns; who, in the reign of Edward I.; had had influence sufficient to obtain from the crown, this then formidable distinction and pre-eminence; and which, Mr. Cole observes, were very common in France.

In March 1814, a barbarous murder was perpetrated in this village, on Mr. Verney, an old inhabitant, who kept a chandler's shop, and was discovered at an early hour in the evening, very severely wounded in his head and various parts of the body, insomuch, as to have expired in about twenty minutes, without being able to give any account of the murderer; the appearance of the wounds indicating, that they had been inflicted by a mallet or hammer; but, notwithstanding the most active exertions to discover the offender or offenders, and the apprehension of one man upon suspicion, who was subsequently committed for trial at the county assizes, but no proof has been found of the culprit; and the affair has thus rested, in total obscurity. It is remarkable, that no robbery of the person or of the premises of the deceased, had been attempted.

A Newton Longville reckoning: Tenpence, bread; and twopence, beer. This proverb is alluded to on a sign at Leighton Buzzard, the nearest town to the village.

My cousins of Newnton have been here;
Eat tenpence in bread, and drunk twopence in beer.

Browne Willis MSS. Bucks Collections.

STOKE HAMMOND.

HE parish of Stoke Hammond occupies the southern portion of the Newport Hundreds. The parish comprises 1,551 acres of which 15 is the water area of the river Lovat and the Grand Junction Canal which intersect the eastern portion of the village. It is in the petty sessional division of Fenny Stratford, union and court county district of Newport Pagnell, rural deanery of Bletchley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Oxford.

The parish is bounded on the north by Water Eaton, on the east by Great Brickhill, on the south by Soulbury, and on the west by Newton Longville and Drayton Parslow. It is 3 miles south from Bletchley, and 10 from Newport Pagnell.

There is a meeting-house here for Wesleyans, built by subscription.

The Manorial History of Stoke Hammond.

In the Conqueror's survey, it was recorded in the Sigelai Hundred, and Maigno himself held Stoches, taxed at ten hides, there being ten carucates of land; in the demesne, three hides, and three ploughs kept there; and twelve villeins, with four bordars, had six carucates, and a seventh might have been added. There were six servants, one mill of eight shillings rent; and six carucates of pasture. It was then, and had been constantly, valued at £10. This manor eight thanes had holden. One of them had six hides, wanting half a virgate; and he and all the seven other thanes might give or sell their lands to whom they would.

Maigno Brito, a powerful Norman, who possessed this manor, had a son called Manfelin of Wolverton, founder of a priory in the parish, called Bradwell; and who gave thereto the advowsons of the churches of Chalfont St. Giles, Padbury, and this place; and so the advowson of Stoke continued in that convent, until given up to the See of Lincoln in the reign of Henry III.

To Manfelin succeeded, in this manor, Hamon, his son, who imparted his name to it, and whose grandson, William, in 1247, passed a fine of the manor of Stoke to Alan Fitz Robert; but in the next reign, the Greys, lords of Eton, Bletchley, and Fenny Stratford held this estate.

In 1301, a fine was levied of two parts of this manor, to the use of John de Grey, and Roger, his son, and their heirs; which on the death of John de Grey, came (1254) to the said Roger; from whom it descended to Reginald, his son, who died possessed thereof about 1389, to whom succeeded Reginald, who being detained prisoner at his lordship's of Ruthyn, in Wales, by Owen Glendower, seems to have

sold his right and title to two parts of this manor, to Chastillon, lord of Thornton; for, about 1416, John Chastillon levied a fine thereof. But soon after this period, the family alienated their estates to the Bartons; from whom the manor of Thornton being, about the year 1465, passed to the Ingletons, it came, with this manor, about 1515, to the Tyrrells, by marriage of Jane, daughter and heir of Robert Ingleton, to Humphrey Tyrrell; whose son and heir, George Tyrrell, in 1557, conveyed this manor to Edward Kirk, from whose descendants it is presumed to have come to the Bennets; and so passed at length in marriage with Jane, daughter and heir of Richard Bennet of Kew Green, Surrey, to John, lord Scudamore, father of lord John Scudamore, and grandfather to James, lord Scudamore, who was owner in 1712, for, in the account of that family, it is mentioned, that the manor of Stoke Hammond came to the Scudamores by the aforesaid marriage of Jane Bennet, circa. 1616; and was in 1735, vested in the daughter and heir of the last lord Scudamore, who was married to the duke of Beaufort. It has been supposed that Edward Kirk, the purchaser of this manor in 1557, or his heirs, about 1590 might, subject to a life interest therein, have conveyed it to Leuvinus Munck, and that Bennet married Munck's daughter. This conjecture of Browne Willis is right, at least in part; for James, lord Scudamore, married Jane, eldest daughter and one of the co-heirs of Richard Bennet, afterwards created a baronet; which Sir Richard Bennet, who died 12 April 1658, aged 63, and his brother Sir Thomas Bennet, who died 28 June 1667, aged 71 (both baronets), married two sisters, the daughters and heirs of Leuvinus Munck, and lie buried at Baberham, under a noble monument, with their effigies in marble.

After the divorce of the duchess of Beaufort from the duke, about 1743, for adultery with the earl Talbot, son of the lord chancellor, she married the duke of Grafton's natural son, Mr. Fitzroy, who thus acquired the manor 10 March 1760. As to the other manor, or third part of the manor of Stoke Hammond, it was dissevered from the principal manor, as was possessed by persons of the name of Stoke; for, 1245, Henry de Stoke levied a fine of lands here to the use of Geoffrey, prior of Dunstable, and of the canons there; and in that convent this manor continued till the dissolution of that house in 1540; two years after which, viz. 1542, Henry VIII., granted to Anthony Stringer and John Williams, Stoke Hammond manor, late belonging to Dunstable priory. Cole avers that Hillersden's estate is no manor, and that it was bought of the Tourneys. In 1563, queen Elizabeth granted to John Somer and Thomas Kerry, inter alia, a messuage or tenement, called Pervaunts, with its appurtenances, in Stoke Hammond, 70 acres of land, three pightles, and three acres of meadow, late in the occupation of William Coleman, all parcel of the possessions of Sir John Williams, knight, lately purchased; another messuage, with lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, and woods to the same belonging, in Stoke Hammond, Chelmscote, and Soulbury, in the occupation of Thomas Fernal, of London; also part of the estate of Sir John Williams, knight, being of the value of £7, to be held of the queen,

her heirs and successors, as of the manor of East Greenwich, in free soccage, and not in capite.

Edward VI., having devised to Edward Atkinson, the site of a capital messuage of the manor of Stoke Hammond, then in the occupation of Thomas Colsell, a messuage called White House, a close called the Lord's Close, and all the lands in the occupation of the said Thomas Colsell or demised to him by indenture from Sir John Williams, knight, dated 10 October 1539; which manor was purchased by Sir John Williams, by Henry VIII., to hold to the said Edward Atkinson, etc., for twenty-one years from Michaelmas 1560, at £13/6/8 per annum; and the said letters patent having come into the hands of Henry Fowler, who surrendered his interest in the remainder of the term, to queen Elizabeth, the manor and premises were thereupon demised by the said queen, to Henry Fowler and Alice his wife, and John their son, and to the longest liver of them, by letters patent of 1568, at the before mentioned rent.

A fourth part or moiety of Stoke Hammond manor, was sold by Sir Richard Pye, 8 July 1682, to Harris Smith of Padbury, whose son Richard, held it in 1736.

In 1584, queen Elizabeth. by letters patent, reciting her demise of 7 March 1571, to George Goodriche, of a house and close called Badd's, another close adjacent, and three and a half acres of land and one rood, in the fields of Stoke Hammond, in the occupation of Robert Taylor, parcel of the manor of Stoke Hammond, and of the possessions purchased of Sir John Williams, knight, for twenty-one years, at nine shillings and threepence halfpenny per annum rent; and the reversion being in her majesty, the queen demises, for the good and true services of Christopher Hoddys in the wars, and at his humble petition, to him the said Christopher, all the premises, with many other lands, from Lady-day 1593, for twenty-one years, at nine shillings and threepence halfpenny per annum.

No courts of this manor have been holden during many years.

The monastery of Dunstable held lands here at the time of the ecclesiastical valuation of Henry VIII.

A yeomanry family, of the name of Fountaine, possesses a considerable estate here, purchased of the duke of Norfolk. Many of this family have been interred in the north transept of the church, and the immediate ancestors of the present possessor of the estate in the church yard, where they have memorials, but the connection between the last mentioned, and those of the same name whose sepulchral stones are placed in the transept, is not known with certainty, many branches of the family being mentioned in the register, and other parochial records, without such description as to identify them.

The manorial house, which is near the entrance into the village from Drayton Parslow and Newton Longville, was in 1823, occupied by the parish clerk; and is now a mere cottage, with no indication of its former importance,

Rectors of Stoke Hammond.

RICHARD DE TINTON, instituted in 1220, on the presentation of the prior and convent of Bradwell. He was a benefactor to Missenden Abbey.

RALPH DE CROPERDY was collated by the bishop in 1265. He was also rector of Great Horwood, in 1267; and likewise held Newton Longville. At his death,

STEPHEN DE GRAVESEND was instituted 10 July 1277, by the bishop in his own patronage. He was, about 1300 made canon of St. Paul's, London; and in 1318, bishop of that See. On his advancement,

WILLIAM DE AULANBY succeeded; and died in 1314. At his death, ROBERT DE SANSTHORPE was collated 1 December 1314. On his cession,

RALPH DE SANSTHORPE succeeded 6 February 1316. He died; and

HENRY DE SANSTHORPE was collated 4 November 1318.

JOHN died rector in 1353. At his death,

RICHARD DE HAVERSHAM was collated 7 March 1353. On his cession,

JOHN DENTON was collated 5 December 1355. He resigned,

ROGER DE SUTTON, instituted 14 November 1361.

WILLIAM DE NAVESBY was instituted 16 November 1361.

ROBERT DE WADYNGHAM exchanged in 1380, for Broadway, in Worcestershire, with

WILLIAM DE SUTTON, who was admitted 1 September 1380; he exchanged for the vicarage of Windsor; with

JOHN BOWERE, 17 November 1381; who exchanged for Woking in Surrey; with

JOHN STAWELL, 2 March 1387; he exchanged for Gravely, near Buldock, with

RALPH DE MELCHBURN, 27 April 1390; who exchanged for Wiotham, in Kent, with

HUGH WOOTON, 10 April 1397. He exchanged for St. Alban's, Wood Street, London, with

JOHN HEREFORD, 14 June 1398. He exchanged for Dunnington, in Berks, with

THOMAS SPALDWICK, 28 October 1399.

WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN died rector in 1433; and

JOHN CHEDWORTH, B.D., was instituted 10 February 1433. He was archdeacon of Wilts; prebendary of Salisbury; and second provost of King's College, Cambridge had the king's consent signified by letter to the pope; 11 February 1451, who thereupon confirmed him bishop of Lincoln, 5 May 1452. He was a native of Gloucestershire; and being chaplain to Grey bishop of Lincoln, and S.T.B., in 1433, had this rectory bestowed upon him by that bishop, but soon after quitted it for better preferment. He died 1 December 1471, and was buried in Lincoln Cathedral; where there is his effigy and arms on a plate of brass, and an elaborate inscription. On his cession,

WILLIAM JAYE was collated 12 November 1434, by the bishop.

WILLIAM STANLEY resigned in 1455, to

RICHARD ALEXANDER, instituted 28 October 1455, on the presentation of bishop Chedworth. On his cession,

ANDREW NEWMAN was instituted 25 May 1482. He died; and

THOMAS CANNER was instituted 2 June 1524.

WILLIAM MOULDER, instituted 9 July 1531. He willed to be buried here 1542.

Will proved at Fenny Stratford, in 1543.

JOHN SOMER, or SENUR, instituted 26 February 1544. It was returned, in 1561, that he resided at Winslow, where he was canon. On his decease,

CHARLES LANGFORD was instituted 29 April 1574. He was afterwards dean of Hereford; and on his cession,

THOMAS IRELAND, S.T.P., was instituted 25 June 1604. He resigned; and

THOMAS TURNER, B.D., was instituted 27 June 1610.

THOMAS OTES, S.T.P., instituted 10 November 1617, on the king's presentation.

JOHN HACKET, inducted 30 September 1618. He was afterwards bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. On his cession,

THOMAS LORKIN was inducted 12 March 1624.

WILLIAM HICKS, inducted 7 December 1625. He died about 1645, being prebendary of Bedford, mayor in the church of Lincoln; and was succeeded by

THOMAS DISNEY, M.A., inducted 29 August 1646. He died in September 1686, and was buried in the chancel.

GEORGE BATE, LL.B., was collated 24 December 1686. He died here; and was buried 17 August 1703.

GERVASE NEEDHAM, B.D., instituted 9 November 1703, and died on the 25th of the same month.

EDWARD SAUL, M.A., instituted 29 December 1703. He resigned on becoming rector of Harlaxton, in Lincolnshire.

WILLIAM WAKE, instituted 16 February 1705; and resigned on becoming rector of Waldegrave and Hannington, in Northamptonshire.

DAVID TRIMMELL, M.A., collated 6 February 1707, by the bishop of Lincoln; and died in 1776. He was succeeded by

JOHN PETTINGALL, M.A., of Oxford, created D.D., and prebendary of St. Paul's and Lincoln cathedrals; died 30 June 1781, and was buried here.

PHILIP BARTON, M.A., inducted 13 December 1781, having resigned the rectory of Sherington to take this, on account of its nearness to his residence at Great Brickhill. He died in 1786; and was succeeded by

CHARLES GARDNER, M.A., inducted 28 September 1786, on the collation of George Pretyma, lord bishop of Lincoln. He died in 1823, and was succeeded by

THOMAS BOUWENS, B.A., collated by his uncle, the Hon. and Right Rev. George, lord bishop of Lincoln, 18 March 1823, and inducted 7 May 1825; as also to the prebend of Brampton, in Lincoln cathedral, and rector of St. Mary's, Bedford.

EDMUND PAINE, was presented 1869.

Ecclesiastical History of Stoke Hammond.

The advowson was anciently vested in the priory of Bradwell, presumed to have been given to that religious house by the Hamons, who were its founders; and so continued, until the reign of Henry III., when it was transferred to the See of Lincoln.

By an Act of Parliament, passed in 1773, this parish, computed at 1374 acres, was enclosed, and an allotment of about 300 acres made to the rector, in lieu of tithes. The effect of the enclosure, as described in the Agricultural Survey, is, that the quantity of grain had decreased; and the number of oxen, cows, and sheep, had increased, especially the last. The farms were seven in number, containing from 60 to 350 acres each; the number of cottages, thirty.

St. Luke's Church, Stoke Hammond.

The church is approached through an avenue of lime trees. There are also two yew trees which girth respectively 88 inches and 85 inches at about four and a half feet from the ground, and are probably the trees referred to in the following extract from the parish register: "Those two (yew) trees att y^e church doors was sett by me George Bate, Rector, upon y^e 27 of December An. Dom. 1687."

This church stands on a gentle eminence at the northern extremity of the village, and is a small cruciform structure with a low embattled tower in the centre, in which are four bells, inscribed:

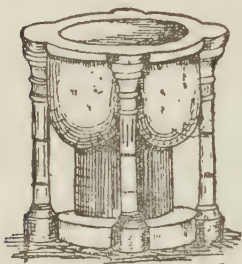
First: BARTHOLOMEW ATTUM 1590. 3 Sixpences 1 Groat.

Second: AVE: MARIA.

Third: RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & Co., LOUGHBOROUGH 1882,
SANCTA TRINITAS ORA PRO NOBIS,

Sanctus: I S

The tower was probably Early English, but the upper part is now Perpendicular. There are no side aisles. The south porch is approached by a stately avenue of lime trees. The oaken roof is of four bays, and ornamented with carved bosses and figures. The open benches, also of oak, have carved ends. The pulpit and reading desk are also of carved oak. At the ends of the transept are two large transomed windows, having three lights below the transom, and six smaller lights above; the nave has one window on each side, that on the north side contains fragments of ancient coloured glass depicting six of the saints; and there is a large five-light window at the west end with ten small lights above the transom. The font is Norman and curious. The basin is plain and capacious, probably used for immersions and stands on a short thick circular column, with four slender detached shafts, also circular which are now joined with cement to the main column. The poor-box bears the date



of 1618. The east window, which is of three compartments, is filled with stained glass. The centre light represents the Ascension, and the other divisions illustrate other scriptural subjects. The space within the communion rails is paved with encaustic tiles.

In the chancel are two marble memorial tablets inscribed to members of the Disney family; and there are also memorials in this part of the church to the Hillersdons. A stone tablet, in the west wall of the north transept, contains inscriptions to the Fountaine family, from the year 1650 to 1690. The Wigg and Frank families too, have memorials here.

On a square tablet of black marble in a white frame, affixed to the north wall: at the dexter corner a skull; at the sinister corner, these arms.

In a lozenge On a fess, three fleurs-de-lis.

1658, Aug. 13,

Heere is interred y^e Body of M^{rs}. Mary Disney, y^e Deare Daughter of M^{rs}. Joane & M^r. Thomas Disney.

As Deare to great & small as knowne,
Most Deare to God as most his owne:
She Gaue herselfe to God, & would
That her Parents againe soe should.
Fiuteene yeares liu'd a Virgin Maide,
In Heauen now a Saint is made.

Upon the north wall of the chancel is another mural tablet inscribed :

1. Here from the North wall to the South, rest the Bodies of Mary the daughter of M^r. Tho. Disney and M^{rs}. Joane Wilks his wife.
2. Thomas the son of Sir Henry Disney, Lord of Norton Disney and of Swinburbey, in Lincoln shire, and of Elinor Gray of Langley Hall in Leicester Shire his wife, inducted rector of Stockhamond in Bvcks in avgust the sext 1646 interred 10^{br} 27th 1686 aged 81 yeares 9 months 27 days.

3. Joane the daughter of Mr. Edw. Wilks of Bydesert in Bedford shire and of Mr. Joane Besovth of Gorner Hall neare Hempstead in Hartford shire interreed september 20th 1680 aged abovt 64. Having been the endeared wife of Mr. Tho. Disney above 38 yeares.
4. Mark the son of Mr. Edw. Wilks and Mrs. Joane Besovth Baptized the 7th of Avg. 1612 and interred in 9^{ber} the 19th 1678.

The generation of the vpright shall be Blessed live in gods feare for Christs sake and yov'll dye in his favour, rest in his peace, rise in his power and Raigne in his Glory. Amen.

In the churchyard, on the south side, near the end of the cross aisle, is a well proportioned altar monument of free stone, consisting of a quadrangular pedestal with four Tuscan columns in recesses at the respective angles supporting an entablature, on the centre of which elevated on two grades, is a verse.

On the west side, the following words :

Sacred to the Memory of Anne, Wife of Bernard Fountaine, who departed this life March 15th 1802, aged 44 yeares. Also Bernard Fountaine, departed this life March 22^d. 1817, aged 62 yeares.

A curious feature in connection with this church is the position in which it is built, viz., not exactly east and west, which is not in accordance with the orthodox plan. Upon old St. Luke's day the sun rises exactly opposite the eastern window.

Browne Willis, in his manuscripts, says : Stoke Hammond church tower was raised and embattled in 1703, it being ridged before.

The Parish Register of Stoke Hammond.

The parish register of Stoke Hammond is of more than average interest, and it is one of those registers which are said to commence before the order in council of 1538. It is true there are four entries before 1538, two marriages (in one family) for 1534, and two baptisms for 1537, but these entries were in all probability made in 1538 as a sort of commencement to the record, and do not represent a genuinely kept register. The book begins : " Christeninges. Qui crediderit, condemnabitur."

John Moulder was bapt the 7 of mch. Anno Reg. Rege henrici 8 y^r 29.

Edward harris was bapt the 18 mch. anno eod.

Lazarus the sonne of a poore begger woman was baptised the xxx day of March Anno domini 1594.

Marriages in stoke hamo synce the xxxvi. (sic) of the raygne of kynge henrye the eight.

Honorabile est inter quosvis conjugium et cubile impolutum. Scortatores autem c adulteros damnabit deus.

Thomas Edwyn and Elizabeth Hall were married xxiiii daye of Nov. anno dom 1534.

Richard Gryce and Margaret Edwyne married xxviii Nov. Ano predicto.

Burials.

1538. John Docker sepultus iiii^{to} die novembris.

1665. May 3 Elinor Smith an old widdow of an III yeares of age last December.

1684. August y^e sixt. John Rogers was interred on y^e Northside of y^e church, dyed excommunicated.
1687. August 21. Thomas Rogers y^e son of John Rogers (who^o died excommunicated) c Ann his wife was interred, his father was put into y^e ground behind y^e church without a buriall but y^t of an Asse but y^e son's funerall was celebrated according to y^e Rites of y^e Church of England he being a constant commor to church, but out of her zeale to her owne party (shee being) had a sermon preached at home by on John Nutkins a weaver.
1693. Novem y^e 20th prudence Woodard was interr'd being an old widdow c an Anabaptist but made Xtian by y^e Liturgy of y^e church of England.
1766. May y^e 7th Ann Bayn an old maid who rec^d. colection of the Parish.
1766. Sep. y^e 28. John Franklin a poor fellow that was kept by the Parish and had fits.
1783. Dec. 3. Richard Haydon a lunatic who hanged himself.

One page of the book is headed :

This Register was made for y^e Births or Abortions c Burialls of Dissenters & for y^e stillborne of y^e Church of England, y^e other containing y^e Births c Burialls of all those y^t are churchmen.

- Feb. y^e 16. 1696. Edward Bayley a dissenter had a child borne y^t was not made Xtian as our Church requireth.
- May y^e 14th 1697. Mary Rutley had a child still Borne & suppose itt was put into y^e ground.

Other notes in the register are :

Mr. y^t John Joanes late servaunt of Henry Fowlar of Stoke Hamont in the county of Buck is lawfully departed from his m^r and his at liberty to serue eleswhere this xvth of october (in the 17th cent.)

1672. 26 Dec. A whole page devoted to stating the places of the parishioners (by name) in the seats at church, the sexes were separate. Men only sat in "the south Island next to the Chancell," and the women sat on the north side of the church.

In a list of the rectors is : "Thomas Lorkin. Martii 12^o 1624. N.B. He was employed in France in solliciting the French Marriage and was drown'd on his return."

Appendix to the History and Antiquities of the Newport Hundreds.



The Lacemakers of the Newport Hundreds.

The celebrated pillow lace, for which Buckinghamshire has so long been famous, was introduced by some Flemish refugees about 1626. The art of lace making was carried into Germany and France from Italy, particularly from Venice and Genoa, and in 1483 a law was passed in France, prohibiting the exportation of lace to England. This had reference to lace worked by the needle, the knitted or point lace not being invented until about the middle of the following century. The oldest pattern book for making point lace is by Nicholas Basseus; it appeared at Frankfort à Maine in 1568. Hammond, a frame-work knitter of Nottingham, attempted to apply the stocking-frame to lace making in 1768, and after passing through several improvements the process was perfected by John Heathcoate, with his bobbin-net machine in 1809. Frost's point lace was introduced in 1777.

The lace trade of the Newport Hundreds was at its height, in the early part of the last century; its principal place of manufacture being Hanslope (see page 108). The introduction of Heathcoate's machine gave the final blow to the hand-made article, and since that time the industry has gradually declined.

The lace makers used to learn their business very early in life, little girls being frequently started at it when only five or six years of age. For this purpose they attended dame's schools, where they were initiated into the mysteries of the craft. The fee was sixpence weekly, and as they acquired proficiency, this was gradually reduced to about half that sum. After deducting the time for meals, the actual working day consisted of about ten hours. During the winter evenings, the girls worked by the light of a candle stool. This consisted of a pedestal about as high as an ordinary table. On the top of this, was a board with a hole in the centre, around which were six other holes, arranged in a circle. In the centre hole a wooden support for a candle was made to slide up and down, and as it had holes pierced in it at intervals, by the use of a peg, it could be raised as the candle burnt down. In the six holes were placed other supports, the tops of which were hollowed to hold flasks of water. These acted as lenses, and threw a bright light upon the pillows. Three would sometimes work by the light of each flask. Two rings of workers frequently sat round a candle

stool, the second row, of course, had less light than those in front. In this manner, by gathering and using the rays from one candle, eighteen workers or more, were supplied with sufficient light for one evening, at an outlay of one penny.

When the trade was better, most of the boys learnt, and at the close of the 18th century, many men worked at it, earning better wages than was possible in the fields. Cowper speaks of the lace maker, who

“Just earns a scanty pittance, and at night
Lies down secure, her heart and pocket light.”

Whatever we may say about the good dame's heart, it is clear her pocket must have been light enough, for the pay of the workers had dwindled down to a most painful figure. It was seldom they could earn more than four shillings a week, the remuneration falling below one halfpenny per hour. When we remember that at this time, the making of lace was the mainstay of so many families, we are not surprised that many found a difficulty in making ends meet—if the ends can be said to meet in the case where a poor creature earns a shilling weekly, and has another allowed her by the parish. Even as late as 1860, the average estimate for each person is given at three shillings a week, and we must leave our readers to form their own conclusions respecting the food and house accommodation supplied by such wage.

Although the work for the last century has been so badly paid, the quality has invariably been of the best. It has frequently been sold as the finest Maltese, and by many judges has been considered superior to it. From an old lacemaker, we learn that about sixty years ago, the Old Point Ground, which was the real Buckinghamshire lace, fetched fourteen shillings per yard; now it commands only two shillings. It is about fifty-four years since Maltese was first manufactured in the Hundreds, and on account of its cheapness it has gradually taken the place of the Old Point, which is now made only by a few of the old workers.

The lace designers and pattern prickers formed a separate branch of the trade; this work was considered very clever, and it commanded the highest wages. There are now only two or three designers in the Hundreds.

Some of the lace schools existed as late as 1863, but they have been finally swept away by the Factory Act and the legislation for elementary education.

One of the most curious features of this trade were the songs of the lace makers, known locally as Lace Tells, or Lace Tellings. These are doggerel verses which remind one very forcibly of those nursery ditties which are the delight of the juvenile mind. The proficiency of the worker was estimated by the number of pins stuck in, in a given time. The singing of these “tells” assisted the counting, and kept them together. These songs are without literary merit, but they form a remarkable and interesting survival of a condition of things which has now passed away.

We will give a few of the more striking. The first is the simplest in form, and was repeated to the counting of the pins, the numbers showing how many remained.

Twenty miles have I to go,
Nineteen miles have I to go,
Eighteen miles have I to go, etc.

In the following one the allusion is to an intended murder. A young man wishing to rid himself of his sweetheart had determined to take her life. With the intention of hiding all traces of the deed he busied himself with digging a grave near the spot where she was to meet him. Before her arrival he happened to see some one either up a tree or standing near, and thus the consummation of the crime was prevented :

Nineteen miles as I sat high,
Looking for one as he passed by ;
The boughs did bend, the leaves did shake,
See what a hole the fox did make !

The fox did look, the fox did see,
Digging a hole to bury me ;
I saw one that ne'er saw me,
I saw a dark lantern tied to a tree.

The next example, in which they counted upwards, is in quite a different style. Our sympathies will not fail to go out towards the individual who is made to undergo such extraordinary treatment between the hours of eight and twelve. One of the workers began by saying :

Ten o'clock Miss Collars aint come.

And in reply, the others repeated as they continued the sticking of the pins :

Get to the field by one,
Gather the rod by two,
Tie it up by three,
Send it down home by four,
Make her work hard at five,
Get her her supper at six,
Send her to bed at seven,
Cover her up at eight,
Throw her down stairs at nine,
Break her neck at ten,
Get her to the well-lid by eleven,
Stamp her in at twelve.
How can I make the clock strike one,
Unless you tell me how many you've done.

It is probable that in the two last lines, allusion is made to a plan sometimes followed in the lace schools of counting to themselves the number of pins stuck, and calling out at every fifty or a hundred. In order to show their dexterity every one made an effort to be the first to call out.

Efforts are being made to revive this industry, and with this object in view, a Pillow Lace Association has been formed and is known as the

North Bucks Lace Association, which is under the presidency of Mrs. Carlile of Gayhurst House. Of course the number of the workers has greatly diminished of late, and in order to prevent the total extinction of the trade it will be necessary for younger hands to acquire the art.



The XVIIIth Century Tokens of Buckinghamshire.

Mr. G. C. Williamson, editor of the celebrated edition of Boyne's work on the 17th century tokens, which was issued to subscribers at three guineas and a half, remarks upon the Buckinghamshire tokens as follows: "The editor regrets that he has been unable to find any collector specially interesting himself in the tokens of Buckinghamshire, and he has consequently been unable to obtain any notes on the issuers. The county has never, as yet, had the benefit of systematic research as to its tokens, and no new places of issue have been heard of by the editor since the first edition." The above regret is entirely obviated by the present publication which is a description of the most complete collection of these interesting antiquities known, and has taken many years of research to bring together. It is in itself unique, and notes of the issuers of the tokens in the Newport Hundreds have been gleaned through the courtesy of the various clergy, in the parishes, who have all taken an interest in the same and rendered assistance both in ideas and loan of parish records.

Mr. Williamson's edition of Boyne's work is excellent, and needful to the collectors, who are ever increasing. His literal mistakes and omissions (in the Bucks section) occur, undoubtedly, from the descriptions taken from poor specimens, and not knowing of those omitted.

As much information in reference to trade tokens has been given in the foregoing pages it is unnecessary to repeat it in this chapter.

The first column of figures denotes the arrangement of the present writer's collection, and those preceded by an asterisk (*) are in his possession. The second column of figures is Mr. Williamson's arrangement and vividly shows how deficient in knowledge he was as regards the issues of this county. The tokens known, are:

AMERSHAM.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| *1 | 1 | <i>Ob.</i> Andrew Bvrrones of—The clothworkers' arms. <i>℞.</i> Ammarsham his half penny—A. F. B. 1665. |
| *2 | 2 | <i>Ob.</i> Iohn Cooke in—A unicorn standing. <i>℞.</i> Amersham 1666—I. M. C. |
| 3 | 3 | <i>Ob.</i> Francis Lane of—F L conjoined. <i>℞.</i> Amersham 1666—F. G. L. |
| *4 | 4 | <i>Ob.</i> Elizabeth Rvtt in—A shuttle. <i>℞.</i> Amersame her half penny—E. R. 1668. |
| *5 | 5 | <i>Ob.</i> William Statham—W. B. S. <i>℞.</i> In Amersam—1653. |
| *6 | 6 | <i>Ob.</i> Richard Webb at Amersham—A hand holding a chopper over a leaf. <i>℞.</i> In Bvckingham sheire 66—R. S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ |

AYLESBURY.

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| *7 | 7 | <i>Ob.</i> Ioseph Bell—The mercers' arms. <i>℞.</i> In Ailsbvry 1659—I. H. B. |
| *8 | 8 | <i>Ob.</i> William Bvrgas in—A Turk's head. <i>℞.</i> Aylsbvry 1670—His half penny. |

- *9 *Ob.* William Burges in Ailsbury his half penny. B. A man pouring out tea 1670. A square token.
- *10 9 *Ob.* Richard Bvtler—A crown R. B. B. Of Aylesbvy 1666—R. S. B.
- *11 10 *Ob.* Gyles Childe in—The mercers' arms. B. In Alsbyry mercer—G. D. C.
- *12 11 *Ob.* Edward Cope—The drapers' arms. B. Of Aleisbvy—E. D. C.
- *13 12 *Ob.* At ye King's head in—Head of Henry VIII. B. Aillsbvrey 1657—W. E. D., small letters.
- *14 A variety with a ♣ before legend, and the W. E. D., large letters.
- *15 13 *Ob.* Alexander Trott 1669—The grocers' arms. B. Grocer in Ayelsbvy—His halfe penny A. A. T.
- *16 14 *Ob.* Joseph Freer marcer—Mercers' arms. B. In Alesbvy 1652—I. M. F.
- *17 15 *Ob.* Iohn Hill of Aylesbvy—A chandler. B. Tallow chandler 1665—His halfe penny.
- *18 16 *Ob.* Thomas Hill in—The mercers' arms. B. Alesbvy mercer—T. R. H.
- *19 *Ob.* Joseph Saxon—A man on horseback. B. In Alsbyry—I S conjoined.
- *20 17 *Ob.* Thomas Stratford—His halfe penny. B. In Alisbvy 1667—T. M. S.
- *21 18 *Ob.* Francis Wethered—The mercers' arms. B. In Alsbyry draper—F. W. 1660.

BEACONSFIELD.

- *22 19 *Ob.* At Beckensfeild in—T. I. C. B. Bvckingham shire—T. I. C.
- *23 20 *Ob.* Iohn Foscet of—A lamb and flag. B. Beckonsfeild 1669—His half penny.
- *24 21 *Ob.* Henry Tripp 1668—A stick of candles. B. Of Beckconesfeild—His half penny. H. A. T.
- *25 22 *Ob.* Thomas Cocke—A cock. B. Of Bickconsfeild—T. K. C.
- *26 23 *Ob.* In Beckonsfeild—I. M. G. B. In Bvckinghamshire—1658 B.
- *27 24 *Ob.* William Willis 1668—A bull. B. At Beckingsfeild—His half penny. W. E. W.

BRILL.

- *28 25 *Ob.* Thomas Carter 1671—T. E. C. B. In Brill in Bvcks—His half penny.
- *29 26 *Ob.* William Goldar—The mercers' arms. B. Merser in Brill. W. A. G.
- 27 This number in Boyne's is undoubtedly the next, wrongly described.
- *30 28 *Ob.* Atthe halfe—I. H. and two small crescents. B. Mone in Brill—A double crescent moon.
- *31 29 *Ob.* Eliz. Scarlett of Brill—The grocers' arms. B. Bvxes 1669—Her half penny. E. S.

BUCKINGHAM.

- *32 30 *Ob.* Elizabeth Crawley—1668 Her ob(olus). B. Of Bvckingham—An ostrich.
- *33 31 *Ob.* William Atton draper—Two bells. B. In Bvckingham 1663—W. E. A.
- *34 32 *Ob.* Iohn Hartlee—A heart. B. In Bvckingham—I. ★ H.
- *35 A variety. In the field of reverse I ∴ H.
- *36 33 A variety dated 1650.
- *37 34 *Ob.* Iohn Hartley—A heart. B. In Bvckingham—I. H. 1660.
- *38 *Ob.* Iohn Hartley Ivniar—1665. B. Of Bvckingham—I. H. This is struck on a large copper flan.
- *39 35 A variety, reads as above, but on much smaller brass flan.
- *40 *Ob.* Iohn Hartley ob(olus)—A heart. B. A tree of fruit; described in Boyne as "uncertain," No. 39.
- *41 36 *Ob.* Iohn Rennals 1668—Lace. I. E. R. B. Of Bvckingham—His halfe penny.
- *42 A variety, without the I. E. R. on obverse.
- *43 37 *Ob.* Peter Reynoldes—Lace. B. Of Bvckingham 58—P. F. R.
- *44 38 *Ob.* George Robins in—A paschal lamb couchant. B. Bvckingham mercer—G. R.

CHALFONT ST. PETERS.

- *45 39 *Ob.* Iohn Bennett at the—A greyhound. I. O. B. B. In St. Peters Chalfont,—His halfe penny. 1668.

- *46 40 *Ob.* Iarvice Good in St.—A greyhound. *R.* Peeters Shalfort—I. M. G.
 *47 41 *Ob.* Edward White 1664. *R.* In St. Peters Chalfont—Cross keys.

CHESHAM.

- *48 42 *Ob.* Richard Amond *R. D. A.* *R.* In Chesham 1664—The clothworkers' arms.
 *49 43 *Ob.* William Childe of—The brewers' arms. *R.* Chesham brewer—W. M. C.
 *50 44 *Ob.* William Gvome—W. S. G. between a pair of open shears. *R.* Of Chesham 1671—His $\frac{1}{2}$
 *51 45 *Ob.* Rise Davis 1671—His $\frac{1}{2}$. *R.* In Chesham—R. E. D.
 *52 46 *Ob.* Abraham Gariaway—Two pipes, crossed. *R.* In Chesham 1671—A. M. G. $\frac{1}{2}$.
 *53 47 *Ob.* Iohn Grover—I. I. G. *R.* Of Chesham—1655.
 *54 48 *Ob.* Iames Ioyse of—1658. *R.* Chassham 58—I. M. I.
 *55 49 *Ob.* Thomas Hall his half penny. A roll of tobacco. *R.* Mercer of Chesham—The grocers' arms. This is a heart-shaped token.
 *56 A variety with a much smaller roll of tobacco.
 *57 50 *Ob.* Sanivel Trecher mercer 1665—The mercers' arms. *R.* Of Chesham his half penny—S. I. T.
 *58 51 *Ob.* Samvell Trecher—S. G. T. *R.* Of Chesham 1653—S. G. T.
 *59 52 *Ob.* Iohn Tyler in—The apothecaries' arms. *R.* Chesham 1665—I. A. T.
 *60 53 *Ob.* Richard Ware—R. P. W. *R.* Of Chassham—1653.
 *61 *Ob.* Samvell Ware—S. S. W. *R.* Of Cheshame—1658.
 62 54 *Ob.* Thomas S. Chessham 1668. *R.* We are 3—Two loggerheads—His Half Penny. The shape of this token is octagonal.

EDLESBOROUGH.

- *63 55 *Ob.* Daniell Finch 1666—His half penny. *R.* In Edlesboro—D. S. F.
 *64 A variety, obverse legend commencing with ★ instead of *

EMBERTON. (See page 163).

- *65 56 *Ob.* Iohn Pierceson—A pair of scales. *R.* In Emberton—1668.
 *66 57 *Ob.* Anthony Scaldwell—A pair of scales. *R.* In Emberton 1664—A. A. S.

ETON.

- *67 58 *Ob.* Thomas Bridges—Man making candles. *R.* Of Eaton 1669—His half penny. T. B.
 68 59 *Ob.* Thomas Collings—✠ *R.* In Eaton 1667—His half penny.
 *69 60 *Ob.* Richard Robinson—Two pipes, crossed. *R.* In Eaton 1666—R. A. R.
 *70 61 *Ob.* Iohn Smith at ye—I. A. S. A cock. *R.* In Eaton 1668—His half penny.
 62 This number in Boyne's is undoubtedly described from a poor specimen of the one above.

FENNY STRATFORD. (See page 507).

- *71 63 *Ob.* Robert Honnor of—The grocers' arms. *R.* Fenistratford 1655—R. L. H.
 *72 64 *Ob.* Robert Honnor 67—R. L. H. *R.* In Fenne Stratford—R. L. H.
 *73 65 *Ob.* William Inns in—W I conjoined. *R.* Fennistrat Ford 1651—W. A. I.
 *74 66 *Ob.* Iohn Smalbons in—A hat. 1656. *R.* Fenney Stratford—I. E. S.

HADDENHAM.

- *75 67 *Ob.* Iohn Morfield of—A man walking. *R.* Hadenham carrier—I. M.
 *76 *Ob.* Iohn Morefeld of—A man walking. *R.* Same as one above.

HUGHENDEN FORMERLY HITCHENDEN.

- *77 68 *Ob.* Francis Barnaby of—Three tuns. *R.* Hvchindon grocer—F. A. B.
 69 Boyne's variety, reading F. A. R. is the one above wrongly described.
 *78 70 *Ob.* Francis Barnaby of—Three tuns. *R.* Hvchindon grocer—His halfe penny.

GREAT HORWOOD.

- *79 71 *Ob.* Henry Feilden 1668—An acorn. *B.* In Horwood Magna—His halfe penny.
 *80 72 *Ob.* Iohn Carter of—A pair of scales. *B.* Great Horwood 1668—His half penny.
 *81 74 *Ob.* Francis Woodcock—The haberdashers' arms. *B.* In Great Horwood—His half penny. *F. E. W.*
 *82 *Ob.* Francis Woodcocke—His half penny. *B.* In Great Horwood—*F. E. W.*
 *83 75 *Ob.* Francis Woodcock—The haberdashers' arms. *B.* In Great Horwood—*F. E. W.*

LITTLE HORWOOD.

- *84 73 *Ob.* Hvgh Willeatt in Little—A rose crowned. *B.* Horwood his half penny—*H. A. W.*

IVER.

- *85 76 *Ob.* Nicholas Mervin—The bakers' arms. *B.* In Iver baker—*N. E. M.*

IVINGHOE.

- *86 77 *Ob.* Robert Barnes in—A pair of scales. *B.* Ivinghoe mercer—*R. S. B.*
 78 Boyne's variety is the above wrongly described.
 *87 79 *Ob.* Henry Bvtler of—The bakers' arms. *B.* Ivinghoe baker 67—His halfe penny.

LAVENDON. (See page 6).

- *88 80 *Ob.* Edmond Baltswell—The bakers' arms. *B.* In Lavendon Bycke—*E. A. B.*

LECKHAMSTEAD.

- *89 81 *Ob.* Abraham Taylor at ye—A cock. *B.* Cock in Leckhamsted—His half penny. 1669.

LITTLE BRICKHILL. (See page 480).

- *90 82 *Ob.* Charles Lord in—A man making candles. *B.* Little Brick Hill—His halfe penny 1669.

MARLOW.

- *91 83 *Ob.* Alice Bovler of Great—The Queen's head. Inner circle dots. *B.* Marlow her half penny—*A. B.*
 *92 A variety, without colon on obverse, and the circle on reverse composed of diagonal lines.
 *93 84 *Ob.* Alice Parker of Great—The Queen's head crowned. *B.* Marlow her half penny—*A. P.*
 94 85 *Ob.* Stephen Harris of—A pair of scales. *B.* Great Marlow—*S. D. H.*
 *95 86 A variety, dated 1669, and with a flitch of bacon between the scales.
 *96 87 *Ob.* Thomas Lane of—1666. *B.* Greate Marlow—*T. L.*
 *97 88 *Ob.* Peter Rivers of—Unknown arms. *B.* Greate Marlow 1667—*P. A. R.*
 *98 89 *Ob.* Tho. Smith in—Two guns saltire. *B.* Great Marlow—*T. I. S.*
 *99 90 *Ob.* Silvester Widmere—A griffin. *B.* Of Great Marlow—*S. K. W.*
 *100 A variety with much smaller lettering and better defined griffin.

MURSLEY.

- *101 91 Henry Pitman of 1668—A shuttle. *B.* Mvrsley silk weaver—His halfe penny.

NEWPORT PAGNELL. (See page 248).

- *102 92 *Ob.* William Breden—A pair of scales. *B.* Of Newport Pagnell—*W. E. B.*
 *103 93 *Ob.* Iohn Bvrgis 1668—A pair of scales. *B.* In Newport Pagnell—*I. S. B.*
 *104 94 *Ob.* Iosias Chapman—A pair of scales. *B.* In Newport Pagnell—*I. C.*
 *105 95 *Ob.* Iohn Child of—A pair of scales. *B.* Newport Pagnell—*I. R. C.*

- 106 96 *Ob. John Child his halfe penny.* R. In Newport 1667—A roll of tobacco and two pipes. This is a lead token.
- 107 97 *Ob. Edward Cooper of—A pair of scales.* E. F. C. R. Newport Pagnell His halfe penny.
- *108 98 *Ob. Edward Cooper of—The grocers' arms.* R. Newport Pannell E. C. 1667.
- *109 A variety, reads on reverse, NEWPORT PAYNELL.
- *110 99 *Ob. John Davis of—The drapers' arms.* R. Newport Pagnall—I. I. D.
- *111 100 *Ob. Rob. Hooton of—R. E. H.* R. Newport Pannell—R. E. H.
- *112 101 *Ob. Samvell Lambert—A pair of scales.* R. In Newportpagnell—His halfe penny. This is a very common token.
- *113 102 *Ob. Iohn Norman in—A pair of scales.* R. Newport Pagnell—I. N.
- *114 103 *Ob. Iohn Norman—The grocers' arms.* R. In Newport—I. E. N.
- *115 104 *Ob. Thomas Perrott—A heart.* R. In Newport Pannell—T. E. P.
- *116 105 *Ob. Newport Pannell—W. F. S.* Bvckinghamshire—A pair of scales.

NEWTON LONGVILLE. (See page 545).

- *117 *Ob. Ieffery Willison—Two pipes and a roll of tobacco.* R. In Newton 1667—His halfe penny I. I. W.

NORTH CRAWLEY. (See page 190).

- *118 106 *Ob. Nicholas Steele of—A pair of scales.* R. North Crawley—N. M. S.

OAKLEY.

- *119 *Ob. Iohn Fowler of Okley—Crossed keys.* R. His halfe penny 1668—I. S. F.
- *120 *Ob. Hvmrey Morgan mercer—A pair of scales.* R. . . kley 1669—His halfe penny. H. M.

OLNEY. (See page 60).

- *121 107 *Ob. Iohn Amps—A pair of scales.* R. In Olney 1662—I. R. A.
- *122 108 *Ob. Robert Aspray—A pair of scales.* R. Of Olney 1662—R. M. A. enclosed in inner circle.
- *123 A variety, has no inner circle on the reverse, and legend commences with a colon.
- *124 109 *Ob. Iames Brierly—I. M. B.* R. Of Olney 1658—A pair of scales.
- *125 110 *Ob. Moses Freeman—A pair of scales.* R. Of Olney 1668—M. E. F.
- *126 111 *Ob. Iohn Gaynes—A pair of scales.* R. In Olney 1652—I. S. G.
- *127 A variety with scales of different design.
- *128 112 *Ob. Ioseph Scrivener—A pair of scales.* R. In Olney 1668—I. E. S.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH.

- *129 113 *Ob. Edward Barnaby 1665—His halfe penny.* R. Of Princes Risborovgh—E. W. B.
- *130 114 *Ob. Edward Barnaby of—Detrited.* R. Princes Risborovgh—E. W. B.
- 131 115 *Ob. Thomas Headeach 1669—♣* R. In Prinses Risbrow his half penny. T. F. H. This is a square token.

SHENLEY. (See page 565).

- 132 *Ob. Ioseph Inns—I. E. I.* R. Of Shenley 1670. I. E. I.

SHERINGTON. (See page 206).

- *133 *Ob. Edward Britnell—E. A. B.* R. Of Sherington—A pair of scales.
- *134 116 *Ob. Edward Britnell—E. A. B.* R. Of Shirrinton—A pair of scales.

STEEPLE CLAYDON.

- *135 117 *Ob. William Norman of—His half peny.* R. Stepell Cladon 1668—W. I. N.

STEWKLEY.

- *136 118 *Ob. Thomas Coles—The grocer's arms.* R. In Stewtly 1667—His half peny.

STONY STRATFORD. (See page 397).

- 137 119 *Ob.* Francis Anderton—The grocers' arms. *B.* In Stonie Strtford—F. A.
 *138 120 *Ob.* Robert Anderton—Three cloves. *B.* Of Stoni Stratford—R. M. A.
 *139 121 *Ob.* Iohn Botrill in—Three goats' heads. *B.* Stonistratford—I. A. B.
 *140 122 *Ob.* Hvgh Blatso in—The drapers' arms. *B.* Stony Stratford—H. M. B.
 *141 123 *Ob.* Thomas Bvrgis—The bakers' arms. *B.* Stonystratford—T. A. B. 1657.
 *142 124 *Ob.* Christoph Clifton—A pot of lilies. *B.* In Stoneystatford—C. I. C.
 *143 125 *Ob.* Mathew Finall—A phoenix. *B.* In Stony Stratford—M. F. F.
 *144 126 *Ob.* Thomas Forfeit in Stony—A griffin. *B.* Stratford his halfe peny—
 T. A. F.
 *145 127 *Ob.* Henrey Honnor—1664. *B.* In Stoney Stratford—His half peny.
 *146 128 *Ob.* William Marshall of—A lion rampant. *B.* Stonie Stratford—W. M. M.
 *147 129 *Ob.* Francis Penn of—The mercers' arms. *B.* Stonistratford—F. P.
 *148 130 *Ob.* Iohn Penn at 1669—His half peny. *B.* Stonystratford—I. M. P.
 *149 131 *Ob.* William Smith 1668—His half peny. *B.* Of Stonystratford—W. E. S.
 *150 132 *Ob.* Richard Veasey in—A lion rampant. *B.* Stonie Stratford—R. E. V.

SWANBOURNE.

- *151 133 *Ob.* Iohn Bavin in—A dove with olive branch. *B.* Swan Borne 1652—I. B.

THORNBOROUGH.

- *152 134 *Ob.* Edward Pvrssell—E. P. 1668. *B.* Of Thornborovgh—His halfe peny.

TINGEWICK.

- *153 135 *Ob.* George Drvry—His half peny. G. M. D. *B.* Tingeicke 1669—The mer-
 cers' arms.
 *154 136 *Ob.* Iohn Dvrrant—His half peny. *B.* In Tingwick—1646.

WADDESDON.

- *155 137 *Ob.* Richard Svtherey—R. M. S. *B.* In Wadsdon carrier—R. M. S.

WARRINGTON. (See page 61).

- *156 138 *Ob.* Thomas Norris—A pair of scales. *B.* Of Warrinden 1668—T. M. N.

WENDOVER.

- *157 139 *Ob.* George Brown chapman—The haberdashers' arms. *B.* Of Wendover
 his half peny—G. A. B.
 *158 140 *Ob.* Iohn Dvncombe—A hat with feather. *B.* In Wendover 1664—I. E. D.
 *159 141 *Ob.* Francis Fvnge—F. E. F. *B.* Of Windover 1668—His half peny.
 *160 142 *Ob.* Ralph Hill in—A rose. *B.* Wendover 1655—R. E. H.
 *161 143 *Ob.* Gabriell Prentice—The grocers' arms. *B.* In Wendover 1664—G. A. P.
 *162 144 *Ob.* Thomas Stokins—T. P. S. *B.* At Wendover 1656—T. P. S.

WINSLOW.

- *163 145 *Ob.* Mathew Bishop—Three boars' heads, each pierced with an arrow. *B.*
 In Winslow 1666—M. D. B.
 *164 146 *Ob.* Mathew Bishop—Boars' heads as above. *B.* In Winslow—M. D. B.
 *165 147 *Ob.* Iohn Crawly and Io Dimock—A hand holding a chopper over a leaf.
 B. Of Winslow 1666—Their halfe penny.
 *166 148 *Ob.* Iohn Forrest of Winslow—The bakers' arms. *B.* His halfe penny
 1666—I. M. F. and a knot.
 *167 149 *Ob.* William Giles—A hat. *B.* Of Winslow 1666.—W. M. G.
 *168 A variety, of smaller size.
 *169 150 *Ob.* William Gyles—A hat. *B.* Of Winslow—W. M. G.
 *170 151 *Ob.* Thomas Godwyn—His halfe penny. *B.* Of Winslow—T. I. G.
 *171 152 *Ob.* Daniell Sayer—The grocers' arms. *B.* In Winslow—D. S.
 *172 153 *Ob.* Thomas Smallbones—A hat. *B.* Of Winslow—T. A. S.

- *173 154 *Ob.* Iohn Watts 64—I. K. W. *R.* In Winslow—His halfe peny.
- WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN. (See page 436).
- *174 *Ob.* William Coale—The grocers' arms. *R.* Of Woofton—W. E. C.
- WYCOMBE.
- *175 155 *Ob.* Thomas Atkines—His half peny. *R.* Of Wickham 1668—T. E. A.
- 176 156 *Ob.* Thomas Bates—The Prince of Wales' feathers. *R.* In Wickham 1661—T. B.
- *177 157 *Ob.* Thomas Bvttterfeild—A wheatsheaf. *R.* In Wickham—His halfe peny,
158 This var. of Boyne's is the next token struck on a larger flan.
- *178 159 *Ob.* Tho. Bvttterfield—A wheatsheaf. *R.* In Wickham—T. B.
- 179 160 *Ob.* Tho. Dimarsh of—A sugar loaf. *R.* High Wickham 1668—T. A. D.
- *180 161 *Ob.* William Fisher—The clothworkers' arms. *R.* In Wikcombe 1652—W. A. F.
- *181 162 *Ob.* Robert Frier—A full-blown rose. *R.* In Hie Wickham—R. F.
- *182 163 *Ob.* Ieremiah Gray in—A swan. *R.* Hey Wickiam 1652.
- *183 164 *Ob.* Iohn Harding in—I. M. H. *R.* Great Wickcombe—I. M. H.
- *184 165 *Ob.* Thomas Harding—1668. *R.* Of High Wickham—T. E. H.
- *185 A variety, the same as one above but on much smaller flan, and probably intended for a farthing.
- *186 166 *Ob.* Francis Ingeby in—1666. *R.* Wickvm Parrish—F. I.
- *187 167 *Ob.* Iohn Ivson at the—Checkers. *R.* In High Wickham 1669—His half peny. I. M. I.
- *188 168 *Ob.* Thomas Leech 1667—A lion rampant. *R.* In West Wickcombe—His halfe penny. T. A. L.
- *189 A variety having no reverse (embossed).
- *190 169 *Ob.* Rich Lvcas of Wickham—R. D. L. *R.* Rather dead then disloyal—A lion rampant.
170 This variety has been mistaken for the above (our number 188).
- *191 171 *Ob.* Richard Lvcas—A large lion rampant. *R.* In Wickham 1653—R. D. L.
- *192 A variety, has a small lion.
- *193 172 *Ob.* Iohn Morris 1666—A stick of candles. In Wickham his half peny—I. M. and a flower.
- *194 173 *Ob.* Iohn Morris—A stick of candles. *R.* In Wickham 1666—I. M. and a flower.
- *195 174 *Ob.* Richard Preist—R. E. P. 1662. *R.* In High Wickham—A crown.
175 This is wrongly described from a poor specimen of the one following.
- *196 176 *Ob.* Alexander Parnam—A greyhound. *R.* At Wickham 1668—A. K. P.
- *197 177 *Ob.* Iohn Rowell in High—The joiners' arms. *R.* Wickham 1667—His halfe peny. I. M. R.
- *198 Thomas Wheatly—A sheaf of corn. *R.* In High Wickham—T. S. W.
- *199 178 *Ob.* Robert Whitton—A stag. *R.* Of Great Wickham—R. K. W.
- *200 179 *Ob.* Edward Winch of Wiccombe—Arms of the Winch family. *R.*—His halfe penny 1666—E. P. W.

Modern Architecture in the Newport Hundreds.

On various occasions throughout the foregoing pages the name of Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, F.R.I.B.A., of Stony Stratford, has been mentioned as the architect or designer. This gentleman is both a native and resident of Stony Stratford, and has done eminent service in the Hundreds, by his architectural adornments, and restorations of former unsightly places. He has adopted a style which accords with the taste of the age, and amongst his many works are the following: Lovat Bank, Newport Pagnell; house for Dr. Maguire, Stony Stratford; house

for Dr. McGachen, Fenny Stratford ; 117 High Street, Stony Stratford ; Bletchley and Beachampton schools ; cottages and lodges for Messrs. Taylor and Mr. F. J. Taylor of Newport Pagnell, the Radcliffe estate, the Newport Pagnell Feoffees, for Mr. Wilford of Newport Pagnell ; coffee tavern Newport Pagnell ; church room for Wolverton St. Mary ; mission church, Fenny Stratford ; bridge over the Ouse at Cold Brayfield ; bridge over the Lovat at Newport Pagnell, for Mr. F. J. Taylor ; farm buildings at Bletchley for Mr. Leon ; restorations and additions to the Cedars, Newport Pagnell, Tickford abbey, Little Linford hall, Great Linford rectory, Stoke Goldington schools, and Loughton belfry ; lych-gates for Emberton and Wolverton St. Mary ; reredoses for Bradwell, Stony Stratford, Old Wolverton, Calverton, and Moulsoe ; painted decoration for Stony Stratford and Wolverton St. Mary churches ; stalls for Hardmead ; and pulpits for Moulsoe and Stony Stratford.

A Shenley Trade Token.

Since the printing of the earlier sheets of this history a great deal of time has been devoted to allocate, and in tracing out the history of the family of Inns, who were the issuers of the 17th Century Trade Token which is placed to Shenley in Hertfordshire, in Boyne's work, without any reason given for so doing.

Inns, being a local name, and connected with Shenley and the immediate neighbourhood in the Newport Hundreds, the registers have been fully searched with the result that proves the issuer to have been a resident in the parish, and therefore brings this relic of bygone days into the Buckinghamshire series of this "monie of necessitie."

Not only does the name of Joseph Inns appear in the ancient records, but that of his wives too.

The token of Joseph Inns was a farthing, and was inscribed :

Ob. IOSEPH INNS—I. E. I.

R. OF SHENLEY. 1670—I. E. I.

Amongst the multitudinous entries of the Inns family, in the parochial registers, that extend to the present day, the following are taken as applying more direct to the present subject :

- 1673 Gulielmus Inns duxit in uxorem Mariam Daniell. Octo. 3^d
- 1683 Elizabeth uxor Joseph Inns de Whaddon 11 May. buried.
- 1687 Elizabeth Inns sepult. Nouemb 17th

Relief of Mafeking Celebrations at Wolverton.

Wolverton can fairly claim to have gone "one better" than any other town or village in the Hundreds, as, in addition to the "official" celebration of the heroism of the besieged townspeople of Mafeking on Saturday 19 May 1900, an extra demonstration was organised for Saturday the 26th, for the benefit of the 1,300 and over children attending

the day schools of the railway town, who were all treated to a capital tea, furnished with a medal celebrating the relief, and participated in the fun in the shape of sports, fireworks, &c. As to how the celebrations came about, perhaps the official description here appended will be of interest:—On receipt of the news of the Relief of Mafeking, on Saturday, May 19th, two or three gentlemen formed themselves into a committee to procure funds to celebrate the event with a large bonfire. Owing to the generosity of several ladies and gentlemen, the material for the bonfire was obtained without calling upon the fund, and it was then decided that a treat of some description should be given to the children.

A larger committee was then formed, and it was resolved that the children attending the Day Schools be provided with a tea, on Saturday 26 May, 1900, at 4 o'clock.

The services of the Volunteer Band were promised, and it was proposed that Mr. Park be asked to lend the Dining Hall for the Tea, and Mr. Richards to allow the use of the Big Field for games, &c., after tea. It was also proposed to ask the residents of Wolverton to display flags, &c., as the children would march, headed by the Band, from the Market Square to the Dining Hall.

Everything went with a swing, and everyone asked to assist in any way, worked most willingly, and, favoured with a most glorious afternoon and evening, the event took quite epoch rank in the history of Wolverton, and will be long looked back upon as one of the great days in the closing year of the 19th Century. The inhabitants of the town responded nobly to the request of the committee that they would decorate their premises, and the town, from street to street, was a mass of patriotic display, flags and streamers being shown in happy profusion. The children assembled at the respective schools, and were there each presented with a medal, bearing on the reverse the inscription "May 18th, 1900. Relief of Mafeking. Besieged 218 days," and on the obverse, a photograph of "Major-General Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking." The boys preceded, via Cambridge and Buckingham Streets to the Square; the girls and infants, via Creed Street, Church Street, and Radcliffe Street. The procession was a pretty sight, the youngsters being nicely dressed, and every child carried a flag or some other patriotic token, the whole turn out being a credit to the mothers of Wolverton. In the Square the Volunteer Band had already assembled, and, under the leadership of Bandmaster Brooks, discoursed some patriotic music. The procession was reformed, and headed by the Volunteer Band playing "Soldiers of the Queen," marched, necessarily slowly owing to some of the children being "mere tots," to the Mess Room, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. C. A. Park. A capital tea was provided for the children, much valuable assistance being rendered by Mr. John Bonser, attendant at the Hall, and his assistants. After a good tea, the procession was reformed, and with the following attractive additions, paraded the streets: Members of the Mazeppa cycling club in fancy costume; a lorry representing "The daughters of the Empire;" another, representing "The rose

of England." There were also several horsemen in costume, viz., Mr. John Eady, made up to represent Lord Roberts in full regimentals; and Mr. Charles Bonser, represented Major-General Baden-Powell. Mr. Thomas Eady and Mr. Ernest Walton represented New South Wales Lancers. A maxim gun, kindly lent by Major Williams, and drawn by boys in khaki (see page 288). The procession proceeded via Stratford road, Windsor, Aylesbury, and Radcliffe streets to the Big Field, where many interesting sports took place.

Home-coming of the Wolverton Volunteers.

Seldom have Wolverton and Stantonbury exhibited a greater display of decorations and patriotic feeling than was manifest on Saturday, 18 May 1901, on the home-coming of the volunteers who had been serving in South Africa.

On arriving at Oxford, in the morning, they were met with considerable enthusiasm, and from thence they proceeded, by special train, to High Wycombe, where they arrived at a quarter past twelve. Here they were received on the platform by the mayor and the members of the corporation, as well as Colonel Gilbey and the officers of the 1st Bucks, Lord Rothschild, and the adjutant. At the station a procession was formed and marched to the church, where a special service of thanksgiving was held, and an address was given by Dr. Randall, the lord bishop of Reading. At the conclusion of the service they proceeded to the Town Hall, where a lunch was provided for the active service men and the officers of the 1st Bucks, and all the officials.

At three o'clock the company dispersed in order to allow the respective sections of the volunteers to return to their homes. The Wolverton section had a hearty send-off at Wycombe railway station.

The arrival of the special train, at Wolverton, was officially announced by the discharge of fog-signals which had been placed upon the metals, and over which the engine, bedecked with flags, and three carriages, steamed into the station amid deafening cheers from the assembled crowd. A procession was formed at the station and marched to the church where a special service was held. After the service, the procession was reformed and marched to the square, where a platform had been erected, for formally presenting an address to Lieutenant Hawkins.

Mr. Park, addressing the assembly, said: Lieutenant Hawkins, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 1st Bucks, I feel it to-day a very great honour in addressing you, and I can only say, and I think the proceedings show it very clearly, how very pleased we all are to see you back again amongst us. The only thing, I think, we perhaps regret, and no one regrets it more than yourselves, that you had not the opportunity of doing a little more fighting. Still you have done your duty and your work nobly and well. There must, of course, be some to guard the lines of communication, and you have done your work like true Britons. You have had a long day, and therefore I shall not detain you any longer, but will at once proceed to read the address,

which will be officially presented to Lieutenant Hawkins next Thursday. It is as follows:

To the Volunteers of the Wolverton Detachment of the 1st Bucks R. V. Corps on their return from Active Service in South Africa.

We, your comrades of the 1st Bucks Rifle Volunteer Corps, and your fellow townsmen of Wolverton and Stantonbury, do hereby express our appreciation of the services which you have rendered to our Sovereign and country, and the honour which you have conferred upon us by serving as Volunteers with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in the Army of our late beloved Queen Victoria and of His Majesty King Edward VII., in South Africa.

We welcome you with heartfelt congratulations, and we thank Almighty God that he has been pleased to grant you a safe return to your own country, while we deeply lament those whom He has called to lay down their lives in a distant land, and we shall never cease to remember, with gratitude, the sacrifice you have made and the labours you have undergone for your country's sake.

We wish you many years of happiness and prosperity in which to remember with pride that you were among the first of the British Volunteer Force to serve with the Regular Army in a foreign country.

(Signed) C. A. PARK, Chairman of the Address Committee.

G. M. FITZSIMONS, Secretary of the Address Committee.

God Save the King.

Wolverton, May 1901.

The Chibnales of Astwood.

The arms of the family of Chibnale of Astwood, whose brass is represented on page 179, is: Azure 2 lions passant guardant or. between as many flaunces ermine. Crest: Dragon's head erased sable, ducally gorged and lined or.

The only lineal descendant of this ancient family, on the female side, still resident in the Hundreds, is Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, F.R.I.B.A., the eminent architect of Stony Stratford.

The Armory of the Newport Hundreds.

A general armory of the Newport Hundreds, of arms not included in the foregoing pages, compiled and supplied by Wm. Bradbrook, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., of the Laurels, Bletchley.

Alston, Sir Joseph, Bart. (Bradwell). Azure ten estoiles or. 4, 3, 2, 1.

Andrews (of Lathbury for 300 years). Azure on a bend cotised sable, as many mullets of the field.

Atkins, Sir Richard, Bart. (Newport Pagnell). Azure three barrulets argent in chief as many bezants.

Bagot (Chicheley). Ermine, two chevrons azure.

Baron (Broughton). — a martlet between three estoiles, a border engr. M.

Barry (Stantonbury). Azure two lions passant or.

Barton (Great Brickhill). Argent three boars' heads erased gu. M.

Bennett (Little Brickhill). Argent, two bars gu., a border engr. sable, a crescent or. a label sable (Bennett of Chester, 1658). M.I.

Boswell (North Crawley). Argent on a fess sable, three cinquefoils of the field.

Bristowe (Great Brickhill). Ermine on a fess cotised sable, three crescents or. M.

- Broke (Lathbury). Vert. a chevron between three cross crosslets fitchée. Willis ms.
- Brown (Olney). Vert. three lions passant in bend between two bendlets argent. M.
- Burney (Wavendon). Azure, two bars counter-embattled ermine, on a canton arg. a cross pateé fitchée sable (confirmed 1806).
- Carlile (Gayhurst). Or. a cross flory gu. on a chief of the second, a saltire of the first the cross charged in the centre with a crescent, also of the first for difference.
- Carpender (Calverton). Paly of six, azure and gu., on a chevron, counterchanged three cross crosslets or. Willis ms.
- Cartwright (Wolverton). Ermine a fess between three fire-balls sable fired proper.
- Chapman, Roger (Newport Pagnell and Weston Underwood). Per chevron argent and gu., a crescent counterchanged. M.
- Chase (Great Brickhill). Gu. four crosses fleury s. on a canton az. a lion pass. or. M.
- Chester (Chicheley). Grant of arms to William Chester of London, 22 May 1467. Per pale argent and sable, a chevron engrailed between three rams' heads erased, horned or., all counterchanged within a border engr. gu. bezantée. M.
- Chivnale (Astwood). Argent three cross crosslets gu.
- Cole, Rev. Charles (North Crawley) — a bull passant —. M.
- Cowdrey (Emberton). Gu. ten billets or. 4, 3, 2, 1. Willis ms.
- Cowper, William, the poet (grandson of Spencer Cowper, a judge of the Common Pleas, brother of the first Earl Cowper). Argent three martlets gu. on a chief engrailed of the last, three annulets or.
- Crane (Loughton). Gu. on a fess between three cross crosslets fitchée or. as many annulets azure. M.
- Cromleholme, Rev. Alex. (Sherington). Erm. a chev. between three mullets gu. M.
- Digby (Gayhurst). Azure a fleur-de-lis argent.
- Disney (Bletchley, Bradwell, Stoke Hammond). Argent on a fess gu. three fleur-de-lis or.
- Duncombe (Great Brickhill). Per chevron engrailed gu. and argent, three talbots' heads erased, counterchanged.
- Farmbrough (Denbigh Hall). Gu. three cross crosslets bend-wise between two bendlets engrailed, the whole between as many garbs or.
- Farrer (Newton Blossomville). Argent on a bend engrailed gu. three horse shoes of the field.
- Fettiplace. Gu. two chevrons or.
- Fiennes (Stony Stratford). Azure, three lions rampant or. M.I. (1429, in old church).
- Fitz-Hugh (Wavendon). Ermine on a chief gu. three martlets or.
- Fo(r)ster (Hanslope). A bend vert. between three bugle horns sable. Willis ms. Another coat: A chevron between three bugle horns or.
- Fountain(e) (Stoke Hammond). Or. a fess gu. between three elephants' heads erased sable, armed argent.
- Frank (Stoke Hammond). — barry of ten, eight escutcheons. 3, 2, 2, 1. M.
- Gardner, Rev. Chas. (Stoke Hammond). Azure, a chevron argent between three griffins' heads erased. M.
- Giffard, Earl of Buckingham. Gu. three lions passant in pale argent.
- Grey, Earl of Kent. Barry of six argent and azure, in chief three torteaux.
- Grey, of Wilton. Barry of six azure and argent.
- Hanner (Simpson). Argent, two lions passant guardant azure armed and langued gu.
- Hanslapp (Loughton). Argent, two bars gu. over all a cross crosslet fitchée az. M.
- Harding (Newport Pagnell). Or. on a bend azure three martlets of the field, on a sinister canton of the second a rose of the first between two fleur-de-lis argent. (Granted 1568).
- Hatton (Brickhill). Azure a chevron between three garbs or.
- Higgins (Weston Underwood). Vert, three cranes' heads erased argent. M.
- Hoare (Wavendon). Sable, a double-headed eagle displayed argent, charged on the breast with an ermine spot within a border engrailed of the second.
- Howard, Duke of Norfolk (Lathbury). Gu. on a bend between six cross crosslets fitchée argent an escutcheon or. charged with a demi-lion rampant, pierced through the mouth with an arrow within a double tressure flory, counterflory of the first.

- James, Rev. David (Woughton). Azure a lion rampant within an orle of roses arg.
 Johnson (Olney). Granted to Nicholas Johnson of Milton Bryant, Bedford, 1632.
 Argent on a pile azure, three ounces' heads erased of the first. M.
 Keck (Woughton). Sable, a bend erm. between two cotises flory, counterflory or. M.
 Knapp (Shenley and Little Linford). Or. in chief three helmets, and in base a lion passant sable.
 Lane (Hanslope). Per pale azure and gu., three saltires coupé argent. M.
 Longueville (Wolverton). Gu. a fess dancettée ermine between six cross crosslets ar.
 Lowndes (Astwood). Argent, fretty azure, the interlacings each charged with a bezant, on a canton gu., a leopard's head erased or.
 Lucy (Haversham). Gu. semée of cross crosslets three lucies haurient argent.
 Malyn (Great Linford). Ermine, a fess paly of six or. and gu.
 Mason (Olney). Argent, a lion rampant (? winged) sable. M.
 Mayne (Hanslope). Ermine on a bend sable, three dexter hands coupé argent.
 Mulshoe or Mulsho (Gayhurst). Ermine, on a bend sable three goats' heads erased argent.
 Newton (Lavendon). Argent, three lozenges conjoined in fess azure, each charged with a garb or.
 Nourse (Milton Keynes). Gu. a fess between two chevronels argent. Willis MS.
 Nowers (Lathbury). Arg. two barrulets azure, in chief three crescents. Willis MS.
 Passelew (Wavendon). Ermine, a fess chequy or. and argent. Coles MS.
 Pauncefort (Great Brickhill). Gu. three lions rampant argent.
 Payne (Haversham). Argent, three trefoils slipped sable.
 Pinfold (Walton). Azure on a chevron or. surmounted of another of the field between three doves proper, as many plates. M.
 Plaunche (Haversham). Argent, a lion sable billettée. Willis MS.
 Pleydell (Calverton). Arg. a fess gu. gutté d'eau between two birds az. Willis MS.
 Praed (Tyringham). Azure, six mullets argent, 3, 2, 1.
 Prichard (Great Linford). Ermine, a lion rampant sable, within a border argent. M.
 Primatt (Shenley). Per chevron gu. and argent, three cocks' heads erased or. M.
 Radcliffe. Argent, a bend engrailed sable, on a canton of the first a horse's head of the second.
 Repington (Stony Stratford). Gu. a fess dancettée ermine between six billets or. M.
 Reynes (Clifton Reynes). Chequy or. and gu. A canton ermine.
 Rogers (Newport Pagnell). Argent, a chevron between three stags statant sable.
 Rookes (co. Bucks). Argent a fess flory, counterflory gu. between three chessrooks sable.
 Ruck, Mrs. Ann (Weston Underwood). Azure, a cross argent between four fleur-de-lis or. M.
 Ruthall (Wolverton). Azure, a cross engrailed between four martlets or.
 Saunders (Wavendon). Per chevron, sable and argent, three elephants' heads erased counterchanged. M.
 Sedgwick (Stony Stratford). Or. on a cross gu. five bells of the field. M.
 Small (Clifton Reynes). Sable on a bend argent, three roses gu. M.
 Smith, Baron Carrington (Gayhurst and Moulsoe). Or. a chevron cotised between two demi-griffins respecting each other in chief, and a like griffin in base sa.
 Stafford (Shenley). Or. a chevron gu. a canton ermine.
 Taylor (Bletchley). Argent, two cotises sable, a martlet in sinister chief of the last.
 Thompson (Baron Haversham, extinct 1745). Or. on a fess dancettée azure three estoilles argent on a canton of the second, the sun in glory proper.
 Townsend (Chicheley). Sable, a chevron ermine between three escallops argent.
 Tyrrell (Castlethorpe). Argent, two chevrons azure, a border engrailed gu.
 Uthwat (Great Linford). Azure a lion rampant argent.
 Uvedall (Great Linford). Argent a cross moline gu.
 Villiers, Duke of Buckingham (Bletchley). Argent on a cross gu. five escallops or.
 Wake (Broughton). Or. two bars gu. in chief three torteaux. Willis MS.
 Walden (Simpson). Or. on a bend gu. cotised azure between six martlets of the second, three wings of the first.
 Warren (Lathbury). Chequy, azure and or. canton argent. Willis MS.

- Watts (Hanslope). Azure, three arrows or. feathered and headed argent, on a chief of the second three Moors' heads couped and in profile sable.
- Wells (Wavendon). Or. a lion rampant, queue fourchée sable langued gu.
- Wetherell, Rev. Robt. (Newton Longville). Argent, two lions passant guardant, in pale sable on a chief dancettée of the last three covered cups or. M.
- Wilcocks (Lathbury). Azure on a saltire ermine a lion rampant gu. Willis *ms.*
- Williams, Rev. John Charles (Sherington). Or. a lion rampant regardant. M.
- Willis (Whaddon). Argent, a fess between three lions rampant gu., on a border of the last eight bezants.
- Witewronge (Stantonbury). Bendy of six argent and gu. on a chief sable a bar indented or.
- Wolverton (Wolverton, temp. Henry III.) Azure, an eagle displayed or. a bend gu.
- Wrighte (Gayhurst). Azure two bars argent in chief three leopards' heads or.

The above list is not exhaustive, but all the most important families are included. The letter M following the description of the coat of arms signifies that it is taken from monuments in the various parish churches.

Lavendon.

The five bells of the parish church of Lavendon, mentioned upon page 11 not being properly described, owing to the darkness at the time they were inspected when that portion of this history was written, is now given in full, the separate bells being inscribed as follows :

- First, Second & Third* : ALEXANDER RIGBE MADE ME 1689.
- Fourth* : W : SHARMAN C WARDEN R : TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS MDCCCXXVIII.
- Fifth* : SIR ANTHONY CHESTER BARONETT THOMAS NEWTON ESQ ALEXANDER RIGBE MADE ME 1689. RICHARD BRYAN AND JOHN SCOTT CH W.

Sir Anthony Chester of Chicheley, was the third baronet of that family. Thomas Newton, who lived at the Grange, was lord of the manor. Alexander Rigbe practised bell founding at Stamford. Tradition says that whilst ringing a peal, early in the 19th century, the fourth bell flew through the bell-loft window into the churchyard and was smashed in the fall. It was then recast by Taylors of Oxford.

The Union chapel and school, at Lavendon, were erected with stone obtained in the parish by Mr. H. G. Lay at a cost of £655, from the design of Mr. Charles Dormer of Northampton. They are neat structures and an ornament to the village. There is a mural tablet placed in the interior of the chapel to the memory of the late respected Mrs. Parris, a prominent member of the congregation.

The Cowper Centenary at Olney.

On 25 April 1900, an important historical event took place at Olney. Being the centenary of the death of William Cowper, poet and "the king of letter writers," the inhabitants of the town did their utmost to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner. The prime mover in the

celebrations was Mr. Thomas Wright of Olney, who has, all his life, endeavoured to bring the poet more before the public. He brought together eminent personages from all over the kingdom, who took part in the proceedings, and who came to meet the centre figure of the day—Mr. W. H. Collingridge—who presented the notable Cowper's House to certain trustees, for the town and country for ever.

To perpetuate this noble gift, a handsome medal was struck and presented to every school child of Olney and Weston Underwood.

The obverse of the medal bore the well-known portrait of the poet and was inscribed : "The Cowper Centenary 1800-1900." Upon the reverse was a palm branch with flowing ribbons and the inscription : "To commemorate the gift of the poet Cowper's House to the town of Olney by W. H. Collingridge, Esq., 25th April 1900." (See page 362).

The house has been converted into a Cowper museum and the collection of relics, both of Cowper and Newton, continually increases.



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Feasts and Fairs of the Newport Hundreds.

The distances given are measured from the Ordnance Map.

Parish.	How spelt in Domesday Book.	Feast or Fair.	Acres of Parish.	Population 1901	Miles from Newport
Astwood ...	...	Sunday after June 29 ...	1281	168	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bletchley ...	...	Second Sunday in Septem. ...	1308	497	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bradwell and Bradwell Abbey	Bradeuuelle, Brodeuuelle	Sunday after August 22 ...	1364	3964	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brickhill, Bow	Brichella	Same as Milton Keynes	1848	448	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brickhill, Great	Brichelle	Sunday after September 19	2380	491	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brickhill, Little	...	May 12, October 25	1367	278	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broughton	Brotone	...	937	113	3
Calverton	Calvretone	...	1900	711	7
Cold Brayfield	Included in Lavendon	Christmas Day	714	79	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Castlethorpe	Included in Hanslope	Sunday after October 28	1372	539	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chicheley	Cicelai	Sunday after August 22	2071	208	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Clifton Keynes	Clystone, Clistone	Sunday after September 19	1454	122	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Emberton and Petsoe	Ambretone, Ambritone	2nd Sunday in July...	2228	504	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fenny Stratford	Included in Bletchley	April 19, October 11	1040	3501	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gayhurst	Gateherst...	Sunday before Stoke Gold.	960	133	3
Hanslope	Hammescle	Sunday after July 25	5801	1424	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hardmead	Horelmede, Herouldmede, Herulfmede	Sunday after St. Mary's	1211	57	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Haversham	Havresham	Sunday after September 19	1634	200	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Iathbury	Latesherie, Lateberie	...	1056	159	1
Lavendon	Lauuendene, Lauuedene	2nd Sun. after October 12	2558	674	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linford, Great	Linforde	Week before Christmas	1886	478	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linford, Little	...	...	727	70	2
Loughton	Lochintone	Sunday after November 13	1536	371	6
Milton Keynes	Mideltone, Middleton, Midueltone	Sunday after November 11	1909	219	4
Moulsoe	Moleshov	...	1854	190	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Newport Pagnell	Neuport	June 22	3432	4028	0
Newton Blossomville	Neuportone	Sunday before Christmas	1014	177	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Newton Longville	"	Sunday after October 17	1735	424	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Crawley	"	Sunday nearest October 10	3366	541	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Olney and Warrington	Olnei	June 29	3367	2764	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ravenstone	Rauenston	Sunday after November 17	2075	230	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shenley	Senelai, Senlai	...	1662	166	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sherington	Serintone	2nd Sunday in October	1805	548	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Simpson	Sevinestone, Suiuine-stone	St. Thomas' Day	1336	731	5
Stantonbury	Stantone	...	806	41	3
Stoke Goldington	Stoches, Stockes	Sunday after July 11	2352	629	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stoke Hammond	"	S. after Old St. Luke's Day	...	288	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stony Stratford	...	August 2 and 3	70	2353	6
Tyringham & Filgrave	Telingham, Tedlingham	1st Sunday in August	1792	198	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Walton	...	Sunday after October 11	773	84	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Water Eaton	Etone	With Bletchley	1016	241	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wavendon	Wauendone, Wauendone	Sunday after August 26	2192	1583	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Weston Underwood	Westone	Sunday after August 10	1873	276	6
Willen	...	...	678	91	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wolverton	Wluerintone	...	2260	5323	4
Woolstone, Great	Wlsistone, Wlsistone	Trinity Sunday	514	45	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Woolstone, Little	Wlsistone	...	631	85	3
Woughton	Wlchetone	Sunday after August 26	1224	202	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The population of the Hundreds in 1824, was 23,556; in 1891, 31,840; and in 1901, 36,735.

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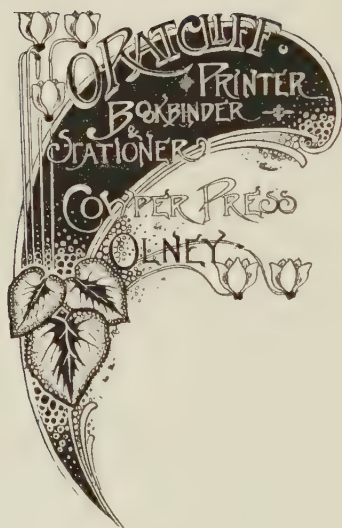
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